Motorist hurt after car collides with patrol car. » PAGE 3

Man claims revenge behind his detention in China. » PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Swift Air execs settle Saipan Air suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Swift Air executives Jeffry Conry and Boris Van Lier have settled Saipan Air Inc.'s $12.5-million lawsuit against them for their failure to deliver three aircraft for Saipan Air's program.

Saipan Air Inc. counsel Steven Pixley and attorney J. Nathan Duggins III, counsel for Conry and Van Lier, have informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that they have reached a confidential settlement agreement.

Pixley and Duggins filed in court on Friday a stipulation that sought to have Saipan Air's lawsuit dismissed with prejudice, which means Saipan Air can no longer re-file the lawsuit.

See SWIFT on Page 4

BUSH FIRE

A large bush fire sweeps through hundreds of acres of grassland at a mountain in Kannat Tabla last night. The fire of still unknown cause was still raging as of press time.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Tinian Dynasty, Gain Millenia sign MOU

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» Agreement precursor to Chinese Strategic Holdings subsidiary sub-leasing Tinian casino

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is on the verge of signing a sub-lease agreement with yet another indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese Strategic Holdings Ltd. after entering into a memorandum of understanding with Gain Millenia last Jan. 19.

The MOU sets forth the principal terms and conditions upon which Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. and Bermuda-based Chinese Strategic Holdings would enter into the lease of the Tinian Dynasty, which is the only existing casino on the island since its establishment in 1998.

Under the MOU, British Virgin Islands-based Gain Millenia would give Hong Kong Entertainment a HK$50 million (around $6.4 million) refundable deposit for partial settlement and discharge of the total rent for the initial term, which is a fixed term of six years starting from the execution of the lease.

Under the MOU, conditional upon approval of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Gain Millenia will have complete control over TDHC hotel operations as well as its gaming operations during the term.

"The tenant [Gain Millenia] shall be free to conduct the hotel operations and the gaming operations on the hotel-casino complex without interference from or direction by the landlord or

See TINIAN on Page 4

Biologists poke holes on USFWS findings

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» USFW assures that 'best available science' will be used; asks for public input

CNMI officials, biologists, and landowners shared their concerns at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the proposed listing of 23 Marianas species as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act at a public hearing last Wednesday night.

While some warned against the continuing "federal blockades" of CNMI ocean, land and restrictions on property, others took shot at the credibility of the science that supported the listing, calling it "outdated" or "baffling" and urged more studies to be done.

Tyler Willsey, a biologist at the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, and part of both a DFW and Service survey on some of

See BIOLOGISTS on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
Descendants of the Hatfields have teamed up with the McCoys to make moonshine.
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ASIA
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LIFE & STYLE
The daughter of Whitney Houston is found face down in a bathtub.
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GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Probationer found using 'ice' several times

Justin A. Funkugub, an ex-convict who was required to speak to school children about the dangers of drug use as part of his probation, tested positive for use of methamphetamine or "ice" several times and failed to report for drug testing and counseling session.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday that Funkugub violated the conditions of his supervision by using "ice" on Dec. 3, 27, and 31, 2014.

Arriola said that Funkugub tested presumptive positive for "ice" use during drug testing and he admitted in writing that he used the drug.

Arriola said Funkugub also failed to report for a drug testing on Dec. 28 and 30, 2014, and failed to appear for a counseling session on Jan. 13, 2015.

Arriola recommended that Funkugub's supervised probation be revoked.

Last December, Arriola also disclosed to the court that Funkugub tested presumptive positive for "ice" use during a random drug test. Funkugub signed an admission form indicating that he used "ice" on Oct. 20, 2014.

At that time, Arriola admonished Funkugub for his behavior and warned him about the possibility that his probation being revoked if his drug use continues.

Arriola then stated that Funkugub will be closely monitored and any additional noncompliance will be reported to the court.

See PROBATIONER on Page 4

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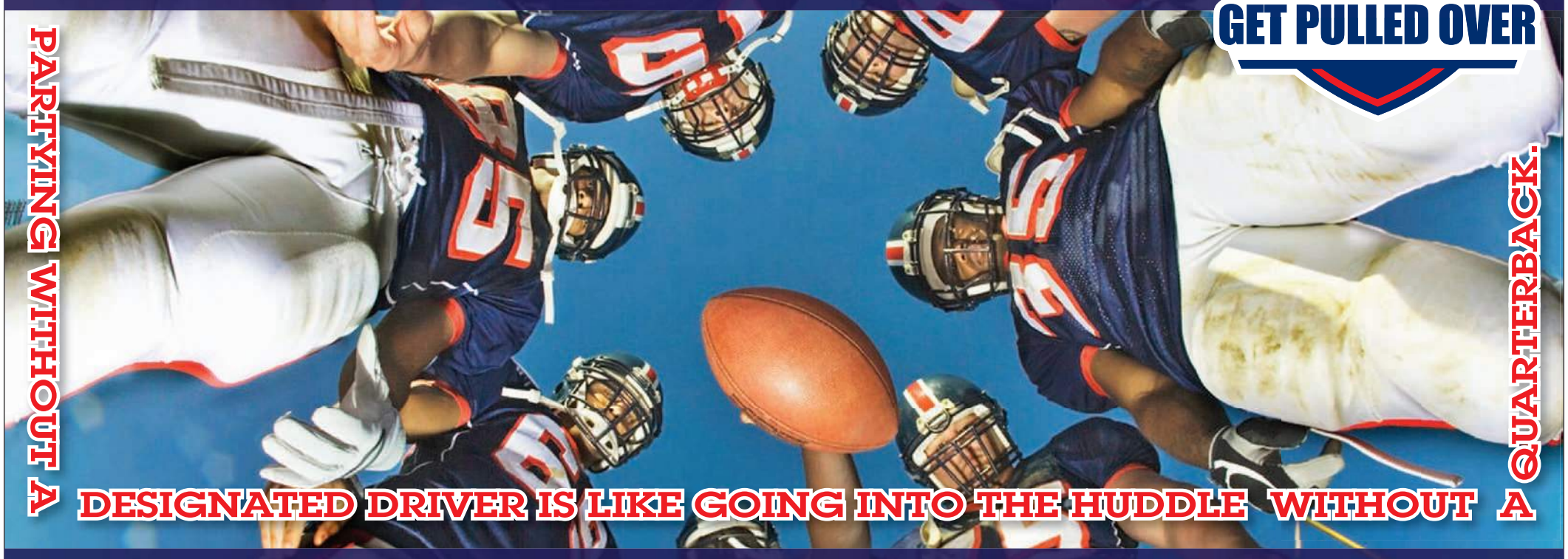

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Motorist hurt after car collides with patrol car

A 31-year-old man was injured when a steering malfunction reportedly caused his car to veer into the oncoming lane and collide head on with a patrol car at Thousand Curves in Puerto Rico on Saturday night.

Sidney Bobby A. Aldan was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center after he sustained a laceration below the right knee, deep scratches to the left arm, and contusions on his forehead.

Aldan was issued a traffic citation.

Police officer Pete Seman, the driver of the patrol car, refused medical treatment, according to Department of Public Safety police spokesman Travis Hurst.

Hurst said the patrol car and Aldan's Honda Civic DX both had damaged front end. The vehicles' airbags deployed due to the impact.

Police investigation showed that DPS Central Dispatch received information from Seman about a vehicular crash at Thousand Curves in Puerto Rico on Saturday at 8:47pm.

Police determined that the crash occurred when Aldan's car had a steering malfunction, causing it to veer onto the oncoming lane, colliding head on with the patrol car being driven by Seman.

Seman reportedly tried to maneuver the patrol car out of the way and to the right but was unsuccessful.

Medics transported Aldan to CHC for treatment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The patrol car being driven by police officer Pete Seman shows extensive damage on its front end.

Jones found at serious risk of not appearing in court

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Friday remanded Evengelyn E. C. Jones to the custody of the U.S. Marshal, after determining that there is a serious risk that Jones will not appear in court and that no reasonable condition will assure that she will not flee.

Kennedy said Jones, who was arrested by federal agents last week for failing to appear at a hearing, must be given an opportunity to consult privately with her court-appointed counsel.

A violating hearing will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, at 1:30pm.

Court-appointed counsel David Banes appeared at the hearing on Friday. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton appeared telephonically on behalf of the U.S. government.

U.S. Marshal Don Hall served Jones on Thursday with an arrest warrant that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued last Jan. 20.

Manglona issued the arrest warrant after Jones failed to show up at her revocation hearing.

Jones was first arrested on an indictment charging her with one count of visa fraud and was released last Nov. 24, 2014, on a $5,000 unsecured bond.

U.S. Probation officer Gregory Arriola then filed a petition for revocation of the defendant's pre-trial release after she failed to appear for random drug tests on Dec. 16, 18, 20, and 30, 2014.

At the Jan. 20 revocation hearing, Jones did not show up in court.

Banes informed the court that since his appointment last Jan. 9, he has made many attempts to contact his client without success.

This prompted Manglona to order the arrest of Jones and vacated the trial date set for Feb. 2, 2015. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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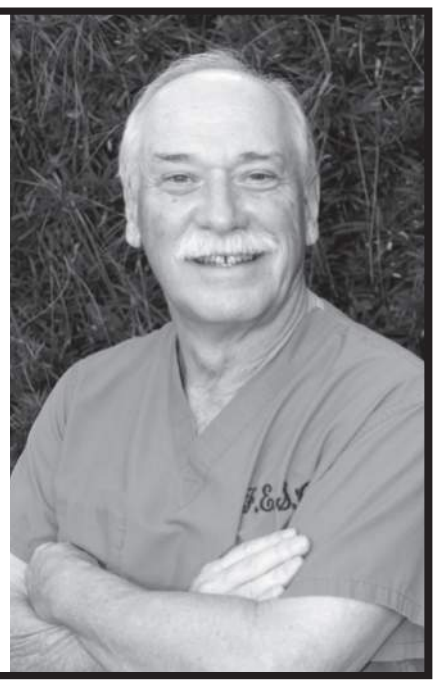

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Stalking and Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Month proclaimed

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos has proclaimed February as Stalking and Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Month as well as National Parent Leadership Month

The signed proclamations were read and presented by Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on behalf of Inos who was not able to attend the proclamations last Friday at the Governor's Office conference room on Capital Hill.

Reading the first proclamation, Torres said anyone can be a victim of stalking, regardless of age, sex, background, or gender identity, with most young women being disproportionately at risk.

"Stalkers seek to intimidate their victims through repeated unwanted contact, including harassing phone calls, text messages, emails, electronic monitoring through the internet, and so forth. Many victims suffer from anxiety, depression and insomnia, and some are forced to move or change jobs," the proclamation read.

MARK RABAGO

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Department of Community and Cultural Resources Secretary Laura Ogumoro pose with DCCA and Division of Youth Services staff and members of Parents Anonymous during Friday's proclamation designating February as "National Parent Leadership Month" at the Governor's Office conference room. Torres also declared this month as Stalking and Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Month.

The proclamation also cited human trafficking as the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, with nearly 27 million victims; globally, there are 4.5 million victims of sex slavery and between 100,000 to 300,000 U.S. children are enslaved in sex trafficking each year.

In the U.S., the average age of recruitment into sex slavery is 12 to 14 years old, and approximately 20 percent of all Internet pornography involves children who are victims of human trafficking.

The proclamation further noted that the CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition continues to work collaboratively with federal and local partners and numerous nonprofit organizations.

The CNMI HTIC consists of the NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, U.S. Attorney's Office, Office of the Attorney General, CNMI Department of Public Safety, Federal Bureau of Investigations, U.S. Department of Labor, CNMI Department of Labor, Karidat Social Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Department of Homeland Security/Homeland Security Investigations, Micronesian Legal Services Corporation-Marianas Office, private sector partners and others.

The second proclamation meanwhile cited the efforts of Parent Anonymous, a family-oriented group focusing on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, which is celebrating its 46th anniversary.

The proclamation also created "National Parent Leadership Month" in February to recognize the extraordinary courage and tenacity of parents who have reached out to make improvements in their families and communities.

A number of diverse CNMI public and private entities have joined the Division of Youth Services, the Parent Education Program, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to plan and implement activities in promoting this year's theme: "Strengthening Families through Parent Leadership," the proclamation further read.

BIOLOGISTS

From Page 1

the proposed species on Rota, compared the two approaches, saying that where the Service failed to find species, DFW—in their recent December survey—"were finding them everywhere."

"Maybe the biologists with the [USFW] crew that were looking for these species maybe were not species experts, and maybe did not have a search image dialed to be able to find them because they were found in areas that I know we were looking, and we found them pretty easily," he said.

Willsey believes the burden of proof should fall on the Service to show a need for this listing. "Where are the threats? Where it is happening? Has a decline been documented for these species?" he asked.

"I feel like there is no baseline data, and if there was baseline data—based on the surveys I've witnessed—I don't think it was very accurate…I feel like there should be documented decline in the species to warrant the protection by the ESA, and I don't feel like that's been adequately documented because there was no baseline," he said.

Jill Liske-Clarke, another biologist at DFW, described herself as a conservationist but found as a scientist the proposed listing "very troubling."

"This species status should be reserved for the species that truly warrant it, that truly need that extra protection. We've got 18 species that got added at the end [from the original candidate of five species], that we kind of got blindsided as an agency, unaware that these were coming down the pipe. So we didn't have the opportunity to collect the data that we really need."

Liske-Clarke was also part of the team that spent four days on Rota exploring some of the species proposed.

"And in four days, we found hundreds, if not thousands of individuals of these different species, especially the plants. And there is no other way to describe it; some of these species are downright common on Rota. Common. I am little bit baffled as to how they could have gotten to the point as proposed for listing. If we are to give the [Service] biologists the benefit of the doubt, perhaps they're basing their listing proposal on their experience in Guam," she said.

But she added the status and trends of these species in Guam cannot determine the listing status, and urged for more exploration to arrive at decision based on "good, sound science."

Beginnings

A court order appears to have triggered the listing.

In 2011, the Service settled with the Center of Biological Diversity, after a decades-long push by the environmental group to get the Service moving on candidate species for ESA protection waiting in their backlog.

Five candidate species were in the Marianas.

But in his testimony, Sen. Arnold Palacios said that if the Service is to comply with a court order then they should move on with the original candidate species, and separate the rest.

"To do this, where we continue to lump everything together, is an injustice. We got to get this right. I was talking to some of the folks on Rota. And they are worried, and they have a right to be worried. We just went through setting aside a large piece of property to mitigate for the Marianas crow, which was listed as endangered. A large piece of public land," he said.

Kristi Young, USFW Deputy Field Supervisor, acknowledged the implications of the lawsuit, telling *Saipan Tribune* that "because this is all driven by litigation, we are required to submit our final recommendation by Sept. 30 to the *Federal Register*."

She expects the final listing to be published in early October.

"[CBC] sued several years ago over lack of progress on several actions that we were listing related actions. The final settlement agreement that we negotiated with them was that over the course of six years we would look at the all of these species that we considered candidates for listing under the [ESA] and would determine whether they warrant listing or taking off the list completely," she said.

She added that they are doing over 250 species nationwide, with a good portion of these from the Pacific.

"There were five species [in the Marianas] that were on the candidate list for some time. The process of going through the rule making…is a bit of complex process. And to be honest, we don't get the funding for that often, so we wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to look and see if there are any species that also warrant protection," she said.

She assured though that once a species is proposed for listing it "doesn't automatically guarantee" that it would be listed.

"Our concern there is that's there's been a difficulty with lack of funding to implement the regulations that are in the books here in the islands and… we are going to be identifying these things. These things can be rectified," she said.

She said with the one-year period until the final listing, they would be "gaining new information" and looking if there were conservation measures or programs being developed to protect these species

Ken Foote, USFW public affairs specialist, said that by law, the Service must use the "best available scientific data" in their final ruling.

"Unfortunately, sometimes we don't have the manpower to really examine all of these [species], and everybody knows logistically it's hard to get to some of these places—so that's where we really need to rely on the locals," he said.

"And not just the scientists; we can get a lot of information from the farmers, the local landowners that are out in the woods. They may know more than some of the scientists. We really want that input."

The comment period for the proposed listing closes on Feb. 11.

TINIAN

From Page 1

any of its affiliates. Neither the landlord (or any of its affiliates) nor any agent or representative of the landlord (or any of its affiliates) shall exercise, either directly or indirectly, management or control of any kind whatsoever, over the conduct of the hotel operations or the gaming operations by the tenant on the hotel-casino complex during the term," read the MOU.

The MOU also states that Gain Millenia would try its best to forge a hotel management consultancy agreement with an internationally renowned conglomerate that has extensive experience in gaming operation and hospitality and/or casino management.

Chinese Strategic Holdings, subject to execution and commencement of the lease, would also try its best to procure relevant gambling facilities and businesses, comply with the applicable laws in the areas where such activities operate; and/or not contravene the gambling ordinance.

If necessary, Chinese Strategic Holdings would also consult and seek advice from professional advisers on such compliance.

Meanwhile, the MOU stated that should the terms of the MOU or the lease be deemed not acceptable to TCGCC or any other regulatory authority, Gain Millennia and Hong Kong Overseas "shall use their respective best endeavors to agree on any revised terms of the MOU or the lease which can best meet the request and/or requirement of or conditions imposed by TCGCC and/or the regulatory authorities concerned."

The MOU also set a June 30, 2015, deadline for the execution of the lease agreement. Failure to complete the deal would result in the refund of all the HK$50 million deposited by Gain Millennia.

An update on the Seattle Summit attended by executives of Chinese Strategic Holdings as well as TCGCC executive director Lucia Blanco-Maratita, the commission's legal counsel, and other parties saw them discuss, among other things, certain operational matters of Tinian Dynasty, the casino operator requirements under the law of CNMI, and the specific terms and conditions of the MOU and the proposed lease agreement.

During the Seattle Summit, TCGCC also preliminary agreed that the structure of the MOU is feasible. Subject to certain compliance issues being fulfilled, TCGCC will further discuss with Chinese Strategic Holdings the regulatory compliance aspect of the MOU and the proposed lease agreement.

SWIFT

From Page 1

The parties, however, agreed that the court shall retain jurisdiction of the case to enforce the terms of the settlement agreement.

The amount and terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

The jury trial against Conry and Van Lier relating to Saipan Air's fraud claims was supposed to commence today, Monday.

The parties held a telephonic conference before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday.

At the conference, Pixley and Duggins updated the court on the status of the case.

Saipan Air originally filed a $50-million racketeering lawsuit against Conry, Van Lier, and Swift Air's then chief restructuring officer Donald Stukes in July 2012.

The court allowed Saipan Air's fraud claims against Conry and Van Lier to go through, but dismissed the claims of racketeering and unjust enrichment against the three executives.

In its amended complaint for fraud claims against Conry and Van Lier, Saipan Air sought $2.5 million in compensatory damages and $10 million in punitive damages.

Swift Air filed for bankruptcy protection in Arizona shortly after notifying Saipan Air that it would not deliver two 757 aircraft and one 737 aircraft for Saipan Air's program.

Conry and Van Lier are currently employed by Arizona-based Swift Air, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2013.

PROBATIONER

From Page 2

In November 2012, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Funkugub to 24 months in prison for pleading guilty to the offense of felon in possession of a firearm. The defendant was given credit for 40 days of time served. After serving the prison term, he was placed on supervised release for three years.

Funkugub was found in possession of a Smith & Wesson Model 12-3, .38 caliber snub-nosed revolver whose serial number had been erased. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Limtiaco cites need to 'scope' human trafficking in NMI

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There is an emerging need to scope the problem of human trafficking in the CNMI, which will involve all stakeholders, including the community and government agencies, Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and Saipan, said.

Limtiaco was on Capital Hill Friday to attend a proclamation signing on stalking and human trafficking on the islands.

The district attorney said "stalking and human trafficking continue to be major issues on Saipan and that February has been recognized as Human Trafficking Awareness Month all over the country."

"These are critical issues, and both crimes have been a concern all over the country," Limtiaco said in a later interview.

She said that although there are no statistics or number of cases of human trafficking yet, there have been prosecutions in Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands.

Limtiaco said there is a need to have a multidisciplinary approach by stakeholders, including the members of a coalition against human trafficking and government agencies such as the police.

She said stakeholders including committees and subcommittees are needed to scope the problem. They can "research and assess the problem in the island communities and look for referrals, concerns, red flags, and questions form the members of the community on what may human trafficking looks like," Limtiaco said. "We need to understand that when people report or call, we need to have resources to respond."

She cited some cases of human trafficking where a victim sometimes may not want to report the case to the authorities, but instead would likely report the incident to a non-government organization or a support group.

"The sharing of information is needed for us to have a more accurate picture of the scope of the problem," she said.

Limtiaco earlier addressed the problem of human trafficking by asking communities around Micronesia to help curb this rising menace.

Unlike illegal drugs and the illegal arms trade, human trafficking has a reusable commodity that craiminal individuals or organizations can reuse time and again, she said.

Some of the places of business that human trafficking can be prevalent include massage parlors or therapeutic massage establishments, brothels, strip clubs, karaoke clubs, gentlemen clubs, or escort services.

In an effort to combat human trafficking Limtiaco last year said her office has created Strategies for Justice.

"This is an initiative that began in our district in Guam and the Northern Marianas and the rationale behind this is community stakeholders coming together, talking about our very diverse communities, talking about our limited resources, our unique and remote location, and financial constraints. Because of this we also recognize the need to look beyond our borders and understand other island-nations who are our neighbors who also have similar challenges and that we need to work together to combat human trafficking."

Limtiaco said there have been steps and efforts taken to communicate, cooperate, and collaborate with other Pacific island nations in the form of training, sharing investigative resources, and creating victim services to help prevent human trafficking in the region.

MARK RABAGO

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and CNMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco pose with members of the NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Friday at the Governor's Office.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Thursday, January 29, 2015, Paul Michael A. Murphy, an immediate family member of Elbert Scott Pinaula of NHMC, applied for assistance under the HOME Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Elbert Scott Pinaula is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable HOME Program conflict regulations. Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Thursday, February 12, 2015.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2015.

/s/JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estates of	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0009**
JOSEPH T. OGUMORO and DORIS T. OGUMORO,	:	
Deceased.	:	

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bank Pacific, Ltd., has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Joseph T. Ogumoro and Doris T. Ogumoro, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on March 31, 2015 at the hour of 1:30 p.m. of the said day.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estates of Joseph T. Ogumoro and/or Doris T. Ogumoro, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estates or either of them, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: January 21, 2015

/s/ Clerk of Court

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,	) CIVIL ACTION
	) NO.: 14-0146
Plaintiff,	)
v.	) **AMENDED**
	) **SUMMONS**
DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS,	) **(For Publication)**
	)
Defendant.	)
	)

TO : DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED January 29, 2015

CLERK OF COURT

First Publication

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-15-001
PL-UNGRADED: $1,148.36 B/W
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

Position: Legislative Assistant
Opening Date: January 26, 2015
Closing Date: February 9, 2015

General Duties:

- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- **Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;**
- **Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;**
- **Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and**
- **Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.**

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. All applicants may be subject to further interviews and examinations(i.e. writing assignment) to determine qualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed, postmarked no later than the closing date to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dormant Deposit Accounts

The deposit listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch of Bank of Saipan before March 30, 2015.

Name
Classic Electric Models, Ltd.
Zena C. Manglona/Richard S. Manglona/Jessica C. Barcinas
Pilsun Kwon
Saipan Youth Football League
Northern Marianas Junior Golf League Inc.
Taek Soo Chun
Chun Xian Zhang
Wen Ping Jiang
Jose Ramos
Li Yao

Pursuant to Public Law 17-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after **March 30, 2015** will be paid to the "CNMI Treasurer" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after March 30, 2015 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

Sincerely,
The Bank of Saipan

Man claims revenge behind his detention in China

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman has maintained that he is still president of a Saipan company and that he was indeed detained in China for 22 months, under conditions amounting to torture, caused by political influence exerted by his former business partners.

Wangzhong Yu, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, also disclosed that the ones detaining him forced him to sign a document purporting to be his resignation as president of Universal Group Development Inc. (Saipan).

Yu revealed more information about his detention in his motions to dismiss Universal Group's lawsuit and motion to join indispensable parties that he filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week.

Universal Group, through counsel Samuel Mok, is suing its former president and shareholder, Yu, for conversion and the First Hawaiian Bank for breach of contract.

Mok alleged in the complaint originally filed in Superior Court that Yu and First Hawaiian Bank have blocked Universal Group from gaining access to $225,000 of its own funds from a business savings account.

Mok asked the court to declare the company as the lawful owner of the funds and to order the bank to allow the company access to the account.

Mok also alleged that Yu was arrested in China when he traveled to that country in 2013 for embezzlement and theft, among other charges.

First Hawaiian Bank has asked to transfer Universal Group's lawsuit from the Superior Court to federal court.

In Yu's motions, Scoggins said that Universal Group has incorrectly framed this matter as a dispute over whether the company or Yu should have control over a corporate bank account.

"That isn't what this case is really about," said Scoggins, asserting that the real issue is that there is a dispute over who are the true officers, directors, and shareholders of Universal Group.

Scoggins said that two people that are not yet parties to this lawsuit are falsely claiming to hold these positions and that in their absence, complete relief cannot be afforded.

"In other words, before it can be determined who controls the corporate bank account, it must first be determined who controls the corporation," the lawyer pointed out.

Yu has denied that he ever resigned his position as president. He also debunked claims that he transferred his shares to another person.

Yu contended that he is still the president and a director of Universal Group and that he, along with three other persons, are the rightful shareholders.

Scoggins said Mingnan Jin is trying to claim that he and another man, Jinwei Guo, are the officers and directors, and that Guo is now the sole shareholder.

Scoggins said that Jin and Guo should be made parties to the lawsuit because their absence means the court cannot provide complete relief among the parties.

Scoggins said Yu would testify, and would present evidence, that prior to November 2007, Jin was treated as a shareholder of Universal Group, but that on Nov. 22, 2007, the company took the position that he was instead a subscriber to shares for which consideration had never been paid.

On this basis, Scoggins said, Universal Group cancelled Jin's subscription, and Jin was no longer considered a part of the company.

"Ever since that time, Mr. Jin has been taking revenge," Scoggins said.

The lawyer claimed that Jin, rather than trying to resolve the dispute through civil action in the CNMI, instead went to China where he, exerting political influence over some government officials, succeeded in having Yu arrested and detained in China.

Scoggins said Yu was detained for 22 months, with inadequate food and water, no medical attention, and being forced to sit immobile in one position for every waking hour of every day.

Scoggins said Yu would testify that on Nov. 22, 2013, under extreme duress and coercion by the persons who were detaining him, he wrote his name but not his signature in Chinese and using the English letters, on a document purporting to be his resignation as president of the company, and also purporting to transfer all of his shares in the company to Guo.

Scoggins said Yu would also testify that he received no consideration for the shares.

Scoggins said Yu would also present evidence that Jin and Guo then fraudulently created documents attempting to show that all other shareholders in Universal Group had also transferred their shares to Guo, making him the apparent sole shareholder.

Scoggins said Jin or someone acting for him then filed these fraudulent documents at the CNMI Office of the Registrar of Corporations.

Scoggins said Yu could go on, but the testimony that he would produce if and when the proper parties are joined to this action would show that Jin and Guo have stolen Universal Group from the rightful owners and have sought to liquidate the corporate assets, including the bank account that is at issue in this case, for their own benefit.

Scoggins said if Jin and Guo cannot be joined in the lawsuit, the court should dismiss the case for failure to name an indispensable party as required by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Universal Group operates the Hailan Market and Oriental Dumping Restaurant on Saipan.

CHCC seeks consultant for pay classification, compensation

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has issued a request for proposal for consulting organizations experienced in analyzing and coming up with a pay plan for the current and future staff of the hospital.

This RFP will help update the corporation's classification system and salary range to re-establish the corporation's position in the labor market in relation to other healthcare employers and allow CHCC to remain competitive in the job market, said CEO Esther Muña.

The consultant will look into CHCC's internal salary relationships and establish internal equity between classes, better progression in career opportunities for its employees, consistency in job titling, identify pay strategies and policies enabling CHCC to maintain a fair and competitive pay plan, and ensure that job descriptions comply with laws and regulations and include essential and marginal jobs.

Muña said the consultant will meet with the corporation's officers, managers, and employees to discuss study plan and updates. This will help the consultant describe positions, salary schedules, organization charts and other job-related information.

"The consultant will conduct desk audits or interview with employees in each class and supervisors to review, clarify, and understand duties and responsibilities," she said.

The consultant will look at salary levels in rural areas in the United States, the CNMI, and other areas in the Pacific and make recommendations on what is appropriate for the CNMI.

They will also evaluate the salary grade for each class and recommend a salary implementation plan.

Muña said the RFP will be for the whole corporation, including the Rota and Tinian health centers.

For more information on the RFP call 234-8950.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP -15-001,Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply

Investment company CEO's advice: Follow golden rule

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Michael Sablan Coleman, who spoke during the 2014 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner last Jan. 24, said if there's one piece of advice he can dispense to his fellow islanders, it is to follow the golden rule: "One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself."

The grandson of the late Peter Tali Coleman, the former Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, and David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan, corporate consultant for Century Insurance Co. and former Chamber president, said it is that maxim that has guided him to the success he enjoys now as CEO of Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc., an investment brokerage firm in Glendale, California.

Aside from practicing the golden rule, Coleman said he always makes sure that happiness reigns in everything he does at work.

He said he always considers himself an islander, having spent the first two years of his life on Saipan. His parents settled in Seattle but he eventually wound up in Los Angeles, then Boston, then Los Angeles again as he straddled both coasts of the U.S. mainland.

Coleman initially worked for a computer company before choosing to do some volunteer work. He would find himself back in the technology industry before being hired by an advertising company where he rose to become senior vice president.

Despite his success, Coleman wasn't happy with the 100 hours a week he was logging at this demanding job. He quit before joining the investment firm that he now heads.

On being the grandson of Uncle Dave and the former deputy high commissioner, Coleman said the honor is not lost on him.

"It's an honor and a great honor. One of the things that everybody wants is to leave a legacy. Remember the good things they've done in their lives and if you look at both my grandfathers…I feel they created a tremendous legacy."

He reminisced that he was on island when the former Saipan Intercontinental Hotel was opened back in 1979 and he had sepia photos to prove it, which he gamely showed to the audience using a slide projector.

Coleman said Saipan has progressed since he was last on island in the late 1990s as fresh-faced college graduate.

"It seems like so long ago. I was here fresh out of college. To come back here the way it is now is an entirely different experience. I do plan to come here all time. I want to be able to do what I can to help the community," he said.

MARK RABAGO

Michael Sablan Coleman holds up an old photo of the opening of the Saipan Intercontinental Hotel in 1979 even as a photo of his grandfather, David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan is shown on the projector screen during the 2014 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner last Jan. 24 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Chamber prexy urges companies to use Web's power to promote CNMI

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Companies in the CNMI should recognize the power of the Internet in campaigns to promote the island as a destination for foreign businesses.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president and CTSI executive Alex Sablan said there is a need to make Saipan's economy diverse and services-oriented.

Speaking in front of Chamber members last week, Sablan said the CNMI should also build a "financial industry." He concedes, though, that the CNMI needs to "compete for foreign investments."

Sablan said one way of doing this is to use the power of the Internet to showcase the potential of Saipan.

Companies in and around the islands can use the Web to hopefully "catch someone" or some companies that are potential investors. "We need to determine what investors want and what other incentives we can give to them," Sablan said.

Sablan earlier said the people of the CNMI can take advantage of the next wave of economic activity brought by the recent influx of foreign investment by becoming entrepreneurs themselves.

The executive said the islands' future appears bright, referring to the casino project of Best Sunshine International Ltd., additional hotels from E-Land, Alter City Group, Honest Profit International Ltd., and Sunshine 100/Tan Holdings.

He, however, wants the people of the CNMI to also take the initiative by setting up businesses of their own that can become mini-drivers of the local economy in concert with Best Sunshine, E-Lands, Alter City Groups, Honest Profits, and Tan Holdings.

He said the Chamber continues to support and encourage those that qualify to work with the Commonwealth Development Authority and the islands' banks to pursue lending.

Another model the Chamber president wants replicated is how investment company Bridge Capital, LLC came to the CNMI.

Sablan said having three to four dozen financial institutions like Bridge Capital that delves in hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, growth capital, foundations and the like can improve the quality of life on the islands.

Sablan said the CNMI government will ultimately have to determine if offering incentives and aggressively marketing these incentives to lure financial institutions to the CNMI outweighs the overall benefit of building a financial industry, providing an opportunity for good jobs, a more educated workforce that brings people home after college, and a possible second leg to the local economy.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-008

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Foreperson: Mechanic
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class is the fourth level in a four level Trades series. Incumbents provide lead technical supervision to maintenance and trades staff. As assigned, incumbents perform the journey level maintenance and/or operational activities of those they lead in assigned area of responsibility (mechanic). Primary duties are as a mechanical foreperson in a diesel engine power plant. Responsibilities as assigned may include coordinating the work of lower level staff; troubleshooting problems; providing customer service; operating and maintaining complex instrumentation, equipment and/or testing equipment; compiling data and preparing regulatory reports; and, troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational problems. Incumbents supervise other Trades staff including conducting performance evaluations, coordinating training; and implementing hiring, discipline and termination procedures. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Prepares daily work schedules and submits for approval; prepares justification of schedules; and ensures necessary materials and tools are available and meet quality standards. Oversees and performs journey level maintenance, installation, and/or operational activities in assigned service area; provides technical advice and guidance to staff. Performs inventory and supply checks of tools, equipment, parts and materials; identifies resource needs and processes requisitions; ensures availability of resources to meet project and operational needs. Gathers and compiles data; prepares and maintains regulatory and status reporting. Performs inspections of projects and operations; provides troubleshooting of complex maintenance and operational problems; recommends and/or implements solutions. Ensures policies and procedures are adhered to, and that service quality and productivity levels are maintained. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,935 to $39,062 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 5 years of journey level experience are in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 5 years of journey level experience are to be performing Mechanical duties. At least one (1) of the four (5) years must include leading a crew. Graduation from a Vocational/Technical Institution as a mechanic. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff; Performing and overseeing skilled journey level maintenance, operations and installation work in assigned area; Performing inspections of projects and operations to ensure quality and productivity levels; Ensuring the adherence to policies and procedures; Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational issues; Recommending and implementing solutions; Providing technical guidance and advice to staff; Monitoring supply levels of resource materials and equipment; Processing requisitions to meet resource needs for projects and operations; Gathering and compiling data; Preparing and maintaining regulatory and status reports and related documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-010

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Electrician
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a electrician for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing electrician duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Court hears arguments in A. Samoans' citizenship case

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A federal appeals court in the nation's capital is scheduled to hear oral arguments Feb. 9 in a case related to the citizenship rights of residents of American Samoa.

Unlike the territory of Guam, those born in American Samoa are not considered U.S. citizens.

At issue is the fact residents of the territories do not have the same rights as residents in the rest of the United States. Congress over the decades has passed laws giving only specific rights to the individual territories, such as the Organic Act of Guam.

Former Guam resident Neil Weare, president of the "We the People Project," in 2013 filed a lawsuit in the federal court in Washington, D.C., on behalf of American Samoans, arguing they've been denied their right to be U.S. citizens.

The court threw out the case, but Weare appealed, and the circuit court ruled some of the issues in the case could move forward.

It's hoped that having the courts clarify the citizenship rights of the 4.7 million people living in the territories also will help clarify the constitutional relationship between the United States and its territories, Weare has said.

One of the goals of the federal legal battle is to obtain full representation in Congress, where Guam currently has a non-voting delegate. It's an issue important to individual rights and control of our own economy, Weare has said.

In addition to the American Samoa case, the "We the People Project" has announced plans to file a lawsuit related to the inability of U.S. citizens living on Guam to vote for president of the United States. It has been gathering information from residents on its website in connection with the proposed lawsuit.

According to an order issued this week by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, oral arguments in the American Samoa case will be heard at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 9, before Circuit Judge Janice Rogers Brown and Senior Circuit Judges Laurence Silberman and David Sentelle.

Attorneys representing the residents who filed the lawsuit will have 20 minutes to speak, and attorneys representing the U.S. government will have 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for attorneys representing the American Samoa government, the order states.

The United States has argued against birthright citizenship for American Samoa residents, as has the American Samoa government.

The U.S. State Department has argued that the U.S. territories are not "states" and therefore do not have the same rights as states—only those specifically granted by laws passed by Congress.

The American Samoa government has argued that automatic U.S. citizenship could undermine local traditions and practices, including land ownership rights that are restricted only to those of Samoan ancestry.

It also has argued that becoming U.S. citizens should be a choice for American Samoa residents instead of being mandated.

The U.S. Congress has the power to decide how people become naturalized citizens of the country, but it can't restrict birthright citizenship for those born under the U.S. flag because it's a "fundamental right," according to an attorney representing the residents who filed the lawsuit.

Several high-profile Guam residents, including former governor Carl Gutierrez, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta, last May submitted testimony in support of the American Samoa residents who filed the lawsuit.

Gutierrez, in a written statement, said, "Nearly 600 soldiers from Guam recently returning home from Afghanistan, in fact, more than 125,000 veterans call a U.S. territory home. It's about time the federal government stops arguing that Guam and these other territories aren't really part of the United States when it comes to important rights and benefits."

Bordallo, in a written statement, said, "So long as Guam and other U.S. territories are part of the United States, citizenship by birth should be recognized as a right guaranteed by the Constitution, not a mere privilege extended by Congress."

Emon Lodge installs new officers

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Romeo D. Malasarte was installed as Worshipful Master of Emon Lodge No. 179 of the Free and Accepted Masons of Saipan at the Saipan World Resort on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Malasarte succeeds Daniel E. Banez, who held the position the previous year.

"I appreciate and accept the honor the brethren have bestowed on me by trusting, believing and supporting my travel to this oriental chair. I assure you, in return, that I will do my utmost ability to administer the affairs of our lodge, as well as to promote the interest of our craft and to work for its growth and advancement," Malasarte said in his remarks.

"Every master mason must consider himself a mentor, teacher, and a symbol of the craft. Let us show to non-masonic public that we are, indeed, a band of men cemented by our special instrument to which brothers may look upon us as an example and inspiration," he added.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was the inspirational speaker at the installation of new officers. Torres said he hadn't attended a mason installation before and thanked the members of Emon Lodge No. 179 for giving him the opportunity.

The guest of honor and speaker, Alan La Madrid Purisima, wasn't able to attend the installation dinner due to personal business and was instead represented by a fellow mason from the Philippines.

Other officers installed include Senior Warden Pepe R. Crisostomo, Junior Warden Joe M. Falaminiano, treasurer Casiano M. Bostre, secretary Wilfredo G. Ching, auditor Daniel E. Banez, chaplain Carlos E. Eslaban Jr., marshal Melvin R. Demonteverde, senior deacon Joselito E. Espino, junior deacon Virgilio E. Zara, lecturer Isagani E. Benoza, orator Pepito O. Reyes, almoner Wendell Posadas, organist Arnel A. Metran, senior steward Saturnino C. Alciso III, junior steward Joel I. Subang, and tyler Elias C. Buenaventura.

Free masonry is one of the world's oldest and largest fraternity of men, usually comprised of men with good character from every country, religion, race, age, income, education and opinion who believe in a supreme being.

This year is Emon Lodge No. 179's 23rd installation. It was first founded in 1992 on Saipan. They hold their monthly meetings every second Saturday of the month. There are about 15 to 20 active members on Saipan and their lodge is situated in Chalan Piao.

EMON LODGE No. 179
MW Grand Lodge Of F. & A. M. Of The Philippines
WELCOME
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
January 31, 2015
Guest Speaker
MW Alan La Madrid Purisima

JAYSON CAMACHO
Emon Lodge No. 179 installed their new officers for Masonic Year 2015. The event was held at the Saipan World Resort on Jan.31, with Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres as guest speaker.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Family grief support meeting on Feb. 5

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday Feb. 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-0755). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Mendinilla during the following times:

- Feb. 3, from 9am to 4pm
- Feb. 4, from 9am to 8pm
- Feb. 5, from 10am to 1:30pm and 3-9:30pm
- Feb. 6, from 6am to 6pm

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 3-4 from noon to 8pm

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

BECQ brigade sets Tank Beach cleanup on Sat.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again picking up trash at Tank Beach on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, at 8 am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy, happy birthday to lil' big diva, Divonne Leah Santos Hosono, who is turning 15 years old today! I wish and hope your birthday wishes all come true! May the good Lord continue to bless you always! We love you! Greeting comes from your families and favorite sister!

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-011

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Machinist
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a machinist for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing machinist duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-009

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Mechanic
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a mechanic for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.culating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Four (4)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing mechanic duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-012

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Operator
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a operator for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Two (2)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-013

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Welder
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a welder for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Two (2)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing welder duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

By TOM BABEL
CQ-Roll Call

Tom Babel is vice president for regulatory affairs at DeVry Education Group. He wrote this for CQ-Roll Call.

The case for year-round Pell Grants

As Congress takes up reauthorization of the Higher Education Act this year, it will have to address several policy concerns, including the rising cost of college and the need to increase degree attainment rates in the U.S. Notwithstanding those concerns, college access will continue to be a major issue. How can our nation expand college opportunities to those who have long been underrepresented, including lower-income students, minorities, and those who are the first in their families to attend college, ramping up the number of degree earners?

One policy solution that can simultaneously address all these higher education challenges is to reinstate year-round Pell Grants. First introduced in 2008, the program was discontinued by Congress and the Department of Education in 2011.

Recently, Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Michael Bennet, D-Colo., have done just that, introducing a bill to amend the HEA (S 108). The bill's primary purpose is to simplify the financial aid process—a noble goal. However, recognizing the importance of flexible degree attainment, the senators also included language to reinstate year-round Pell. For non-traditional students who need to complete their degree and enter the workforce quickly, this is great news.

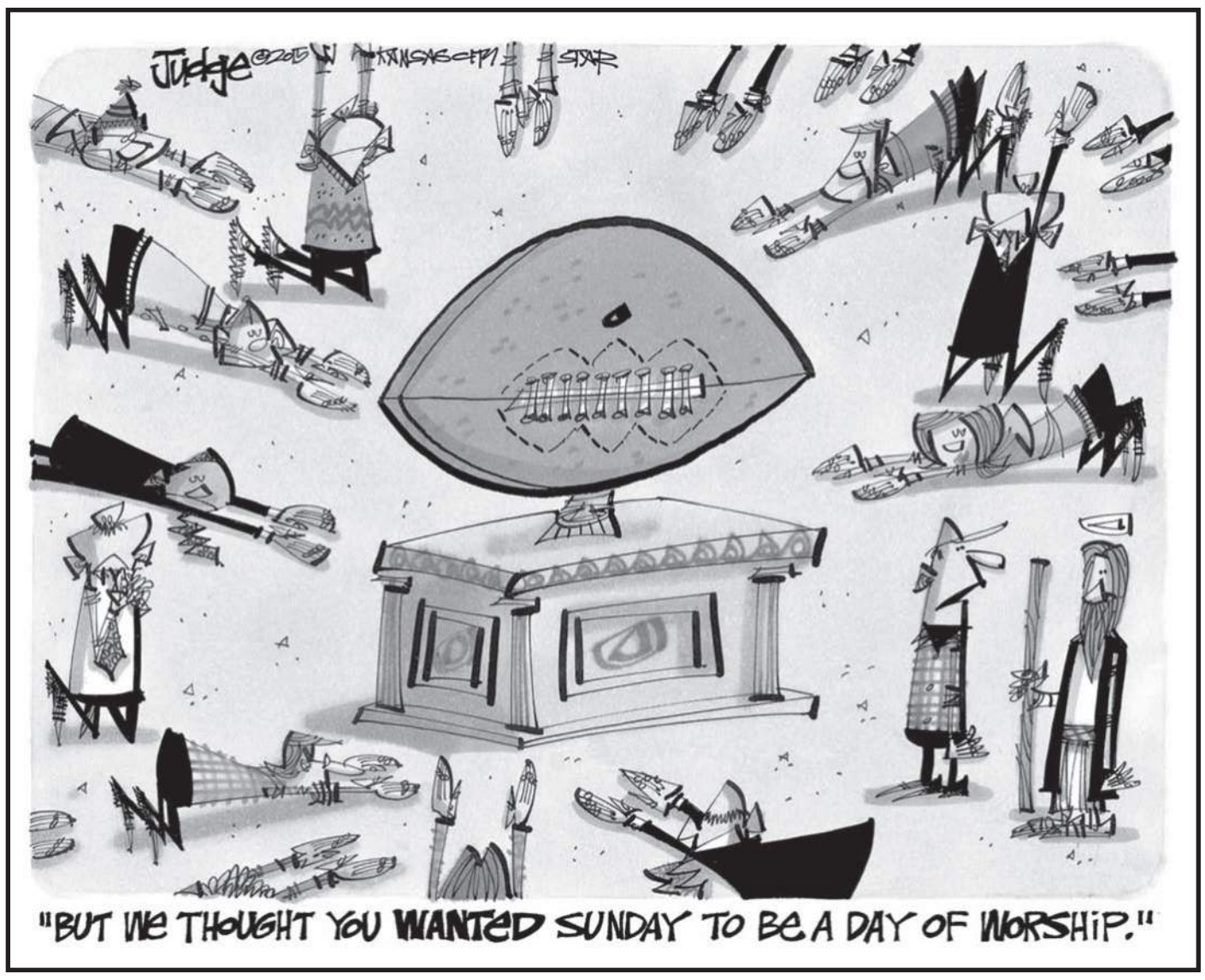
Earning a bachelor's degree in fewer than four years is not a priority for the vast majority of traditional college students. For students in career-focused programs, however, it's a very different story. They want to finish as quickly as possible. For example, at DeVry University, a career-focused institution serving non-traditional students, 47 percent of our bachelor's degree graduates earned their degree in three years or fewer.

Why the disparity? The fact is many DeVry students are adult learners supporting families and have low or unstable incomes. Many have credits from other schools. They are eager to complete their degrees as quickly as possible so they can enter the workforce, or re-enter qualified for better jobs. Completing their education quickly means lower opportunity costs—wages foregone while they are in school.

So, they are motivated by economics to finish quicker, but how do they do it? They go year round. Rather than taking the summer off from their studies, summer becomes a third semester. By taking courses all year, they can finish nine semesters in three years, or if they have significant transfer credits, they can finish even quicker.

Students aren't the only ones to benefit when they graduate quickly. Three-year college completion also offers huge potential benefits to society. Economist Reuven Brenner from McGill University has calculated that if just one generation of 4 million students joined the labor force one year earlier at a starting salary of $40,000, it would add $160 billion in national income per year, and generate $2.4 trillion of wealth for the na-

See PELL GRANTS on Next Page



Following the road map to prosperity

By STEPHEN MOORE and JOEL GRIFFITH
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

How does a nation or state create economic growth and rising living standards for its citizens? Once upon a time superstitious economists believed that growth resulted from how the stars aligned.

Using astrology to predict growth is no more misguided than certain fad economic theories being peddled today by charlatan economists. Many Europeans and several South American nations advocate more government intervention to create jobs and higher incomes—when these policies are often what have created the weak growth and stagnant incomes in the first place.

Too many political leaders—including some in the U.S.—have learned the wrong lessons from the Great Recession and its aftermath.

In Europe today, the standard belief is that stimulus plans—with more government spending and debt—will jumpstart flat-lined economies in places such as Spain, Italy, France and Germany. Many insist that printing ever more money—as the U.S. Federal Reserve Board has done with some $3 trillion of infusions into the economy—will provide juice to the engine of growth. If only it were that easy.

In the recent Greek elections, voters opted for a left-wing leader with former communist ties who calls for an end to "austerity." Unfortunately, austerity is defined as too much government spending cuts—a strange idea, because in Greece the government already spends roughly half of the national output. So instead of cutting welfare programs, inflated pension benefits, unemployment payments, Athens will evidently spend and borrow even more. Good luck with that.

Meanwhile, here in the U.S. President Obama takes a victory lap for the economic recovery of the last five years despite it being the slowest since the Great Depression. Median household incomes have collapsed by $1,500 in real terms during the Obama recovery. That's some rebound. Obama's stimulus plans have created fewer jobs than would have been created by doing nothing—and that is according to his own analysis.

In sum, confusion reigns on how to regenerate growth.

But there is simple and time-tested formula for unleashing economic prosperity—here at home and abroad. It's not complicated. The Heritage Foundation's 2015 Index of Economic Freedom—which ranks 186 nations—shows conclusively that growth is a byproduct of free enterprise policies and limited government interference.

Adjusted for purchasing power, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is more than six times higher in "free" vs "repressed" economies. So for example, the per capita income is more than $50,000 in a free nation such as the United States. It's $11,610 in a repressed nation such as Cuba. Israel has a per capita income of $34,770 versus $14,845 in Lebanon. Israel is far more economically free than Lebanon.

Take two nations that start at the same place economically. After two decades, the citizens in the nation with economic freedom will enjoy a standard of living one-third greater than their counterparts in the less free zone. Poverty rates will also fall in the free nations much faster than the command-and-control economies.

Economic freedom isn't hard to achieve: it means low taxes, free trade, limited government spending, a sound currency, the rule of law, and a light hand of regulation. Cronyism, which is too often regarded as a partner of capitalism, is exposed as a deterrent to growth. Russia is a nation not of free-market capitalists, but of cronyism—and its economy has floundered.

In other words, countries that grow reward citizens for how hard they work and what they know, not who they know.

The United States is ranked by Heritage as only the 12th economically freest nation in the world today, behind places such as Hong Kong, Switzerland and even Canada. Only a decade ago, the U.S. consistently ranked in the top 10 or higher—but that all predated stimulus plans, bailouts, tax hikes on the rich, and Obamacare.

While many nations tragically flirt with big-government strategies and cheap money, the U.S. has an opportunity to win the global competition for jobs, businesses and capital investment. The low hanging fruit in Washington is to chop our highest in the world corporate income tax, reform our welfare system to reward work over handouts, approve free trade deals and drill for our domestic energy resources.

That would be a good start to raising worker incomes. And it may even move America, the Land of the Free, back into the economic freedom top 10—where we belong.

Stephen Moore is the chief economist and Joel Griffith is a researcher at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org), 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't supersize, but right-size it

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years. She holds a journalism degree from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and is a recipient of professional awards and commendations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's environmental achievement award for her environmental reporting.*

About 10 months ago, a 23-year-old intern at the Division of Customs Services discovered smuggled illegal pesticides hidden in a 5-gallon plastic container topped by about a 3-inch layer of pungent pickled vegetables.

He dipped his gloved hand in the concoction when he suspected that something is still not right even after the importer ate some of the vegetables in front of him to prove to Customs that the gallon contains only food.

The same Workforce Investment Agency intern, who was training with Customs for only a few months at the time, also discovered just a few weeks earlier over 40 pieces of counterfeit luxury goods.

During these discoveries, the intern, Don F. Teregeyo, was under the supervision of Customs officers.

Those like Teregeyo, who have the initiative, who are eager to learn more, know how to follow through on their actions and understand the meaning of public service, are among the types of people this administration needs as it contemplates hiring more people to improve government services and beef up law enforcement and revenue collections-related agencies such as the Division of Customs Services.

Teregeyo and at least three other WIA interns with him at the time are now fulltime customs officers, after proving themselves worthy of their titles.

But Customs needs a lot more personnel given its dual function of collecting revenues and as a law enforcement entity inspecting cargo entering CNMI borders. As it is now, Customs already needs more personnel given the increased tourism activities.

What more when investors like Honest Profit International, Best Sunshine Inc. Ltd. and other major investors start shipping into the CNMI construction materials and other goods for their projects or when new flights start coming in?

Customs Director Joe Mafnas, who has effectively reformed the division, said their current personnel count of around 45 would need to be increased to 75 to 80, and Customs is justified in its request.

The Inos-Torres Committee on Transition itself recommends increasing the size of the CNMI government, which it says is actually understaffed, contrary to common perception that it is bloated. But this shouldn't mean a CNMI government hiring spree to reward relatives and political supporters. It should not be about hiring "more" people, but hiring only "qualified" people to efficiently do the job they are being hired for.

It should be about right-sizing the government, not supersizing it.

It does not make sense to hire 10 new people in one division, for example, when what's needed is to hire just five or less qualified people that can efficiently do the job.

In its 18-page summary of recommendations, the Committee on Transition says most divisions' staffing has been reduced by 50 percent or more, which it says "threatens the timely deliveries of essential public services."

While it is true that a number of agencies with law enforcement and revenue collection-related functions such as the Division of Customs Services, Division of Revenue and Taxation and the Department of Public Safety are understaffed, the same can't be said for other entities, including costly elected and appointed positions.

Even on non-election years, for example, proposals to abolish three sets of municipal councils and three sets of legislative delegations have failed miserably despite their duplicative functions.

The need to hire more, according to the Committee on Transition, also stems from Best Sunshine International's planned construction of a whopping $7.1-billion integrated casino resort and other investors on Saipan.

But whether the government has more funds to hire more people at this time is yet another issue, when no construction, much less a casino operation, has even started.

However, at least for Customs, the director said "it takes time" to train people to become effective and highly skilled officers.

As for other agencies outside of Customs and DPS, hiring more has to be carefully weighed.

Does it make more sense to come up first with a government assessment and plan on how Saipan's roads, utilities, law enforcement, public safety and other infrastructure can handle activities related to a $7.1-billion investment, before starting to hire people for government jobs especially if they are in non-law enforcement and non-revenue-related agencies?

Many of the recommendations in the Inos-Torres Committee on Transition report brought up the same old suggestions or promises made by previous transition committees, countless economic forums and highly-paid consultants such as establishing a one-stop business center to speed up the business licensing process, creating a comprehensive economic development plan, or making the government more transparent and accountable.

It is not at all bad that these ideas are suggested once again but hopefully, this administration will be the one to finally heed the oft repeated recommendations.

Most of the recommendations are worth pursuing. Other specific suggestions can also be pursued immediately, including those related to government procurement and the prompt termination from government employment of those with positive drug test results during random unannounced drug testing while they're holding certain positions and that they shouldn't be re-hired in government for at least five years. The list goes on.

But it is not enough that Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres call for a press conference or issue a press release announcing that their administration is heeding the recommendations of their own transition team.

The Inos administration has to actually follow-through on its identified goals, tasks and actions. Otherwise, everything in the transition report would prove to be just another lip service and the recommendations would just gather dust along with many other reports, studies, and suggestions on how to improve the government.

And in the case of the smuggled illegal pesticides that Customs discovered last year, no one has gone to jail for that, as of yesterday. That right there is an example of a lack of follow-through on the part of government.

Customs has done its part. It discovered smuggled items and fined the business for the smuggled goods. The matter needed to be referred to other agencies for further actions and prosecution, but to no avail. It does not make sense that every time Customs intercepts smuggled items, other regulatory and law enforcement agencies would just bungle the case.

But there's more to it. The Legislature also has to introduce a bill to amend laws governing CNMI Customs, to include illegal pesticides and insecticides in the definition of "contraband" and Director Mafnas said this came to light only upon further review of Customs laws and rules after the discovery of pesticides hidden beneath pickled leafy vegetables.

Reforming the CNMI healthcare system

By GRANT E. WALKER, M.D.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony offered by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Grant E. Walker in reference to Senate Bill 19-04, which proposes to transform the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory board into a governing body. This testimony has been submitted to the Senate and House Health Care Committees.

Last part of a series

Senate Bill 19-04 could remove unnecessarily high master's educational requirements for a CEO and others and accept a bachelor's degree with a high amount of experience. This would open the door for equal or better candidates, judged by the people performing the interviewing. Choosing the candidate does not have to be outlined with such fervor in legislation.

In my recommendation for 19-04, physician insurance indemnification and lawsuit malpractice caps (malpractice tort reform) would apply to all doctors practicing in the CNMI, not just government officials. At present, the CEO uses a useless hospital bylaw requiring malpractice insurance for doctor who applies for privileges. Since there is no malpractice carrier who writes anywhere in the CNMI, how can a private practice doctor practice at the only CNMI hospital?

Why put all of the hospital eggs in one basket, a basket that likes to credential only doctors employed by the CEO? Why not create smaller, energy efficient and administratively efficient hospitals? I was thinking that with some simple revisions to Public Law 16-51, there would be room to attract more private doctors and to create these public-private surgical centers and mini-hospitals the size of small grocery marts.

Where would the money come from? It would come from partnering with the private doctors and the public sectors. It would come from grants such as the Bill Gates Foundation and Mallealuca. It would come from federal grants that already exist to pay for doctors in America's rural and underserved areas. All experienced CEOs know about these things! Have you ever seen the mission-statement of CHC published anywhere?

But why stop there? Why not have additional checks-and-balances by way of a Surgeon General, serving the specific needs of the people and making recommendations with speed and accuracy, doing something about diabetes education in our schools, running blood checking finger sticks at malls, pamphlets to educate. It is cheaper than dealing with the high cost of the treatments. The SG could work to expand the role of the U.S. Peace Corps in the remote areas and expand the Peace Corps or military owned facilities?

So with my utmost respect to you and the people of the CNMI, I deliver to you my testimony on health care reform and 19-04. It is not whittled down to just putting the CHCC board of trustees in charge of a CEO. It is a comprehensive package that puts in place the tools necessary for a complete health care reform. It leads you to 2015. You can dismiss it if you like and accept the status quo. However, in two months' time you will still have the same failing system, the same CMS Medicare woes, the same deteriorating energy-sucking hospital facility, the same enclaves of unchecked and unelected power, Tinian and Rota left in the wings, and people living in the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America, looking to travel to the developing nation of the Philippines for an up in the quality and services of medical care.

I respectfully give to you this set of recommendations for amendments, created with over 100 hours work, borne out of a bad thing that happened to me, former representative Ana Teregeyo and other patients, and doing something good with all of that experience. I see it as a challenge to create something with so few words (less than 20 pages), and so broad so encompassing that a simple piece of legislation can change lives one at a time. It has the capacity to change and adapt with the future, one neighbor and one American at a time, just as Madison envisioned the process. Who knows, tomorrow a bad thing may happen to you. This health care reform has the capacity to be something great.

With special thanks to Sen. Teresita Santos who has my full set of amendments rewritten into the PL 16-51 format, available for the asking.

Grant E. Walker, MD, is a board certified and fellowship trained orthopedic surgeon and a 2014-2015 nationally certifying orthopedic board member.

PELL GRANTS

From Page 10

tion's economy over 40 years.

Finally, quicker degree completion can help ramp up institutional capacity and efficiency at a time when the nation needs more graduates. The fact is many public institutions are at their enrollment capacity, but only for three-quarters of the year. By operating year round, schools could more fully utilize campus facilities and faculty. And by getting each student through college quicker, institutions could educate 25 percent more students—a critical step toward tackling President Barack Obama's 2020 goal.

Offering Pell Grants all year not only benefits students, it can also help the U.S. economy by boosting college attainment rates, speed-to-degree and institutional capacity. By recognizing and supporting students' desire to go to school year round, policymakers can make a statement about the achievability of quicker college completion, and help shift the higher education landscape to be more productive.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Apology

I, Elizabeth Barganio, would like to apologize to the residents of Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands for my mistakes, and I also sincerely apologize to Mr. and Mrs. Zacharias Sakisat, and I promise that it would not happen anymore.

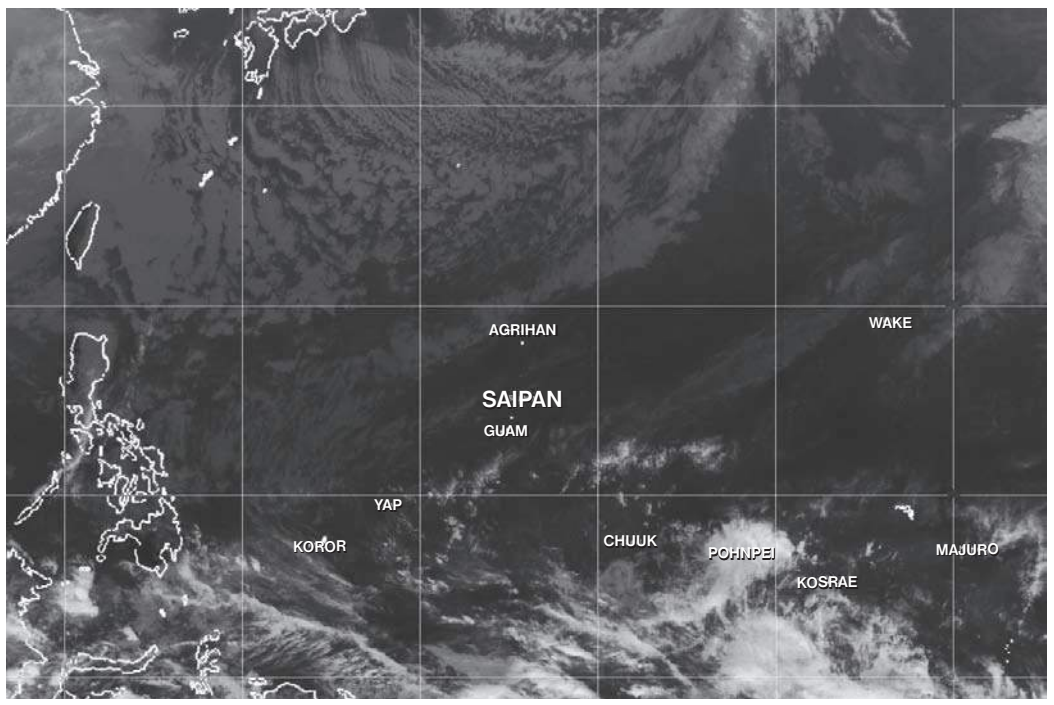
Elizabeth Barganio
Chinatown, Garapan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N146E to beyond 130E at 19N. Low clouds and patchy showers are occurring well northwest of The Marianas along the boundary and northwestward to beyond 25N. A diffuse shear line runs southwestward from 25N170E to 12N152E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are located well east of the Marianas along and up to 160 miles northwest of this feature. Low-level convergence southeast of the shear line is generating scattered showers over Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 17N162E to 25N170E to 19N171E. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 8N141E to EQ167E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present southeast of Chuuk but over Pohnpei and Kosrae between 8N and the equator from 153E to 164E. Scattered showers are found southeast of Kosrae between 5N and the equator from 164E to 170E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers south of the Marianas between 10N and 6N from 144E to 148E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Cloudy	▲82	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲81	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼31
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼68
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼59
New York	Frozen Rain	▲34	▼12
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
Paris	Snow	▲38	▼31
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼33
Rome	Showers	▲51	▼48
Salem	Showers	▲54	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼27
Tokyo	Sunny	▲50	▼32
Washington, DC	Rain	▲52	▼21

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
7:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:53 PM	5:07 AM
Tuesday	5:43 PM	5:52 AM
Wednesday	6:31 PM	6:35 AM
Thurssday	7:19 PM	7:16 AM
Friday	8:06 PM	7:55 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Just whose Internet is it? New federal rules may answer that

WASHINGTON (AP)—Whose Internet is it anyway?

Tom Wheeler, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, says he's keeping that question in mind as he pitches the biggest regulatory shake-up to the telecommunications industry since 1996, when people still used noisy modems and referred to the "information superhighway" as a fun way to buy books or check the weather.

Wheeler has not publicly released his plan yet, and might not for a few weeks. But he has suggested that Internet service has become as critical to people in the United States as water, electricity or phone service and should be regulated like any other public utility.

Wheeler told reporters this past week that he wants "yardsticks in place to determine what is in the best interest of consumers as opposed to what is in the best interest of the gatekeepers."

That has the industry sounding the alarms, warning consumers of an inevitable $72 annual tax increase on each U.S. wireless account. But advocates of the approach say that is not likely to happen and that your Internet experience probably will carry on as usual.

AP

In this Oct. 8, 2014 file photo, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Tom Wheeler speaks during new conference in Washington.

A look at what "net neutrality" means and what is likely to happen:

THE ISSUE

Net neutrality is the idea that Internet providers should not move some content faster than others or enter into paid agreements with companies such as Netflix to prioritize their data.

Broadband providers have questioned the fairness of this approach. They have invested heavily in a sophisticated infrastructure and question whether the government should be telling them how to run their networks and package services.

But what if the major cable companies that provide much of the nation's broadband had free rein to load some files faster than others? It is easy to imagine scenarios where these providers might favor content produced by their affiliates or start charging "tolls" to move data. Consumers naturally would gravitate toward faster sites and services that pay those fees, while smaller startups or nonprofits get shut out.

THE OPTIONS

The FCC had used the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which was intended to encourage competition in the telephone and cable industry, to enforce "open Internet" rules, until recently, when a federal appeals court knocked down that approach.

President Barack Obama and consumer advocates say a better tack would be to apply Title II of the 1934 Communications Act. That law, written with radio, telegraph and phone service in mind, prohibits companies from charging unreasonable rates or threatening access to services that are critical to society.

Industry likens that approach to cracking a nut with a sledgehammer.

THE FCC

Wheeler says he will circulate his proposal among the other FCC commissioners before Thursday. He has suggested it probably will apply Title II regulation to all Internet service, including wireless, but with some caveats.

Industry experts expect that Wheeler will say many rules should not apply to broadband, invoking what's called "forbearance."

The commissioners will vote Feb. 26. Wheeler expected to have the support of the other two Democratic commissioners. The two Republican commissioners have made clear that they do not support applying Title II.

Next stop will be the courts. Industry lobbyists and FCC officials say there's no doubt one of the big providers will sue and probably ask the court to suspend enforcement of the new regulation pending appeal. It's possible the issue won't be resolved for several more years, even well into the next president's first term.

Obama budget sets up battle with GOP-controlled Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a year of relative peace in Washington's budget battles, President Barack Obama will lay out a $4 trillion budget on Monday that needles Republicans with proposals for higher taxes on the wealthy and businesses to pay for education, public works projects and child care.

The plan, expected to be dismissed by GOP lawmakers now running Capitol Hill, rolls out as the deficit is dropping and Obama's poll numbers inch higher. Though Republicans will march ahead on their own, they ultimately must come to terms with Obama, whose signature is needed on anything that is going to become law.

Big challenges loom: the need to increase the government's borrowing limit; a deadline for sustaining highway funding; a bipartisan effort to ease painful, automatic cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies. Those cuts are the byproduct of Washington's previous failures to tackle the government's deficit woes.

First on the agenda is the need to finalize the current-year budget for the Department of Homeland Security. It's tied up over a GOP demand to reverse Obama's November executive actions that extended work permits and temporary deportation relief to some 4 million people in the U.S. illegally. Funding for the department runs out Feb. 27. Obama planned a budget speech at the department Monday.

A defiant Obama challenged the GOP in his radio and Internet address Saturday.

"If they have ideas that will help middle-class families feel some economic security, I'm all in to work with them. But I will keep doing everything I can to help more working families make ends meet and get ahead. Not just because we want everyone to share in America's success—but because we want everyone to contribute to America's success," he said.

Republicans insisted they are the champions of the middle class.

Germany's Merkel says she doesn't see another Greek debt cut

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel has underlined the refusal of Greece's European creditors to consider forgiving part of the debt-ridden country's rescue loans, though she stressed in an interview published Saturday that Berlin's aim is to keep Greece in the eurozone.

Greece's new government insists it will honor pre-election promises to seek a cut on the country's rescue debt and scrap painful budget measures that were demanded in exchange for the loans.

Merkel said in an interview with the daily Berliner Morgenpost that Europe will continue showing solidarity with Greece and other nations hit by Europe's debt crisis "if these countries undertake their own reform and saving efforts," and fended off a question about the new Greek government's moves to reverse reforms and rehire suspended workers.

"We—Germany and the other European partners—will now wait and see what concept the new Greek government comes to us with," she was quoted as saying. She was clear, however, about prospects of a debt cut.

Athens already was forgiven billions of euros by private creditors, Merkel said. "I don't see a further debt haircut."

As for demands that have surfaced in Greece for Germany to pay more compensation for Nazi crimes during World War II, Merkel said that "this question doesn't arise."

Merkel said she wants Greece to be successful and acknowledged that "many people there have hard times behind them."

"The aim of our policies was and is for Greece to remain a part of the euro community permanently," she said.

Drivers: Return to your dealers for a 2nd air bag recall fix

NEW YORK (AP)—Drivers, bring your vehicles back to the shop for more work on faulty air bags.

The government says more than 2 million Toyota, Chrysler and Honda vehicles need a second fix for air bags that may inadvertently inflate while the car is running.

The recall includes some Acura MDX, Dodge Viper, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Honda Odyssey, Pontiac Vibe, Toyota Corolla and Toyota Avalon models made from 2002 to 2004.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says all of the vehicles covered in Saturday's announcement had already been under a recall for the faulty air bags. Carmakers originally tried to fix the defects by partially replacing the electronic control unit, made by TRW Automotive Holdings Corp. of Livonia, Mich., but that fix didn't always work. The new remedy—full replacement of the unit—will be available to all affected vehicles by the end of the year.

However, the NHTSA is urging consumers with cars under the first recall to have the partial unit installed despite the fix's failure rate, even if they have to return to the dealer under the second recall.

"Even though it's a temporary solution until the new remedy is available," NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind said, consumers "and their families will be safer if they take the time to learn if their vehicle is covered and follow their manufacturers' instructions."

About 39 air bags, or 15 percent, that had been replaced under the previous recall have deployed inadvertently again.

The agency says about 1 million Toyota and Honda vehicles involved in the new recalls are also subject to a separate recall related to defective air bags made by Takata Corp. of Japan. Those air bags can deploy and rupture with enough force to cause injury or death.

In nine cases, cars had problems that included both the inadvertent deployment and the Takata rupture. Three of those cases resulted in injuries, including eye injuries, scratches and burns.

No death or injuries related to non-Takata air bag failures have been reported.

The announcement comes days after the family of Carlos Solis filed a lawsuit against Takata. Solis, 35, died on Jan. 18 in a minor crash in a Houston suburb.

Nation

Hatfields, McCoys make moonshine legally in southern W.Va.

GILBERT, W.Va. (AP)—After generations of bootlegging, direct descendants of the Hatfields have teamed up with the McCoy name to produce legal moonshine in southern West Virginia with the state's blessing—the start of a new legacy for the families made famous for their 19th-century feud.

Production of "Drink of the Devil" has been in full swing at a distillery on original Hatfield land, bringing batches to the nation's store shelves using the original recipe of family patriarch William Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield.

Overseen by Chad Bishop, husband of Hatfield's great-great-great granddaughter, all the work is done by hand in a converted garage on a mountainside six miles from "Devil Anse" Hatfield's gravesite.

After going through fermentation and distilling processes at Hatfield & McCoy Moonshine, batches are bottled, corked and packaged in-house before being shipped to West Virginia, Florida, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

"This is as close as you'll get to the way it was made 150 years ago," Bishop said.

Among those lending knowledge and elbow grease to the business are Bishop's wife, Amber, and her mother, Nancy Hatfield, the oldest living descendant of "Devil Anse."

Ronald McCoy, a great-great grandson of McCoy patriarch Randolph "Ole Ran'l" McCoy, was a consultant for the distillery's startup and the product's testing and marketing.

Sold in 25-ounce bottles, moonshine is essentially whiskey that hasn't aged. The business sells between 1,800 and 3,000 bottles each month at $32.99 per bottle.

"I'll be honest. It's just kind of crazy," Amber Bishop said. "We never dreamed that it was ever going to be anything like this."

AP

A flask and bottle are shown Jan. 22, 2015, at the Hatfield & McCoy Moonshine distillery in Gilbert, W.Va. Direct descendants of the Hatfields and McCoys have teamed up to produce and sell legal moonshine, the start of a new legacy for the families made famous for their 19th-century feud.

Considering the families' history, her ancestors probably wouldn't have, either.

The feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky is believed to have begun in the 1870s over a stolen pig and escalated over timber rights. By 1888, at least 12 people had died as a result of the shooting war. The violence ended by 1900, and a truce signed in 2003 marked an official end to the conflict.

Now, in the name of commerce, the families are banding together.

"They really take it very seriously," distillery attorney Greg Chiartas said. "It really is about economic development for them."

Interest in the former feud spiked in 2012 when a miniseries co-starring Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton aired on cable television. A year later a cable reality show featured several Hatfield descendants and relatives of the McCoys on the maternal side.

After the state passed legislation allowing for regulated moonshine distilleries, Chad Bishop, a former longtime coal miner who also comes from a long line of family moonshiners, acquired the necessary permits in 2012. The distillery started shipping to the state Alcohol Beverage Control warehouse in November 2013 for distribution to retailers.

Man arrested after body parts found in suitcase

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco police arrested a man on suspicion of murder Saturday in connection with a suitcase found on a downtown street stuffed with dismembered human remains.

Mark Andrus, 59, had been spotted on surveillance footage near where the suitcase was discovered and was booked into county jail hours after he was detained as a "person of interest," Officer Grace Gatpandan said.

Gatpandan said she could not comment on exactly how police linked Andrus to the body, but said they were aided by the surveillance footage and witness statements. She did not have any additional information about Andrus, the body parts found in the suitcase or a possible motive.

Andrus' family told the San Francisco Chronicle he had runins with the law, kept to himself and drifted so far from them that they didn't know where he was or how to reach him.

"We haven't heard from him in, oh my gosh, years and years and years," said Helen Andrus of Spokane, Wash., who is married to Mark Andrus' older brother, Jon. "My husband at one point tried to reach out and find him, but I'm guessing it's been 20 years now since we last saw him."

The newspaper said Andrus had arrests in Missoula, Montana, in the 1980s and `90s for suspected drug possession, theft, burglary and jumping bail.

Police received a call on Friday night on the department's anonymous tip line that a "person of interest" in the suitcase incident had been spotted in the city's Tenderloin neighborhood, Gatpandan said. They responded and detained two people, including Andrus.

Police had released photos of Andrus from the surveillance footage earlier in the day showing him in a striped baseball cap, light blue jeans and a blue and orange jacket.

The suitcase was found Wednesday afternoon outside a Goodwill thrift store in the city's South of Market neighborhood. More body parts were found in a trash can nearby. The San Francisco medical examiner determined that the remains belong to an unidentified light-skinned man. Authorities will now turn to a DNA laboratory to identify him.

Police probing alleged corruption in Nevada Legislature

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Las Vegas police have confirmed they are investigating allegations of corruption in the Nevada Legislature involving an extortion attempt aimed at a Republican assemblyman who has drawn criticism from more conservative lawmakers.

Assemblyman Chris Edwards of Las Vegas was identified as the alleged victim in the case in a statement released Saturday by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Criminal Intelligence Section.

Detectives served a search warrant Saturday morning at a Las Vegas residence as part of an investigation that began in December when Edwards was "approached about changing his official vote for Assembly speaker," police said.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and no arrests have been made at this time," the statement said. "No other details are available at this time."

Edwards, a decorated veteran who served 25 years in the U.S. military, was elected to the District 19 seat in November after the incumbent Republican Cresent Hardy decided to run for Congress and unexpectedly unseated Democratic Rep. Stephen Horsford.

Edwards said in a statement Saturday that he can't comment on the investigation itself "because it is wide ranging and still ongoing." But he praised the swift response on the part of law enforcement.

"As unpleasant as it has been to learn about the people involved in this investigation, it is nice to see how swiftly and professionally the Criminal Intelligence Unit has worked to protect the integrity of our system of government. The residents of Clark County should be proud to know these people are protecting us," Edwards said.

"Since the November election we have seen a lot of political hype about recalls and `holding people accountable.' It is nice to see that many of those people will soon be held accountable for their hypocritical actions," he added.

GOP infighting over the speaker's seat and other issues have plagued Republicans as they prepare to open the Legislature on Monday with a majority in both the Senate and Assembly for the first time since 1985.

Last week, the Clark County Republican Party filed a complaint accusing a conservative PAC of illegally using contributions to finance efforts to recall some Republican lawmakers, including Edwards and Assembly Speaker-designate John Hambrick.

2 injured climbers airlifted off Mount Hood, officials say

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon National Guard helicopter has airlifted two climbers off Mount Hood after the two were injured in a fall, rescue officials said.

The two climbers, a male and a female, are being taken to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center for treatment, American Medical Response in Portland said.

The climbers were injured after they fell early Saturday near an area on the mountain known as the Hogsback, according to the Clackamas County sheriff's office. A call for help was received just before 11 a.m., Deputy Ben Frazier said.

The male climber might have a broken femur, while the female climber has two broken ankles, Frazier said.

A third climber, another male who was also with them, was able to make it down the mountain with help.

The climbers were on the popular south-side climbing route. Frazier said he did not know what caused them to fall. Weather conditions near the mountain were good Saturday: clear skies and sun. Hogsback is a snow ridge at about 10,000 feet elevation.

Members of Portland Mountain Rescue, a volunteer search and rescue group, and American Medical Response reached the injured climbers earlier in the day and helped stabilize them.

Rescuers and paramedics relocated the injured climbers to a nearby area that's easier to reach by helicopter, which plucked both climbers off the mountain with the rotors still turning, American Medical Response said.

The sheriff's office says the names of the climbers will not be released at this time.

Asia

Japan mourns Goto as caring and courageous reporter

TOKYO (AP)—Whether in tsunami-stricken northeastern Japan or conflict-ridden Sierra Leone, it was the story of the vulnerable, the children and the poor that drove the work of journalist Kenji Goto.

The news of his killing in a video purportedly by Islamic State militants sent Japan into shock and mourning Sunday, days after his plight as a hostage in Syria united many people in praying for his release.

"I want to cuddle with the people. That's the best way to express my approach," Goto, 47, said about his work. "By cuddling with them, I can talk with the people. I can hear their views—their pain and their hopes."

A pony-tailed man with a friendly, carefree laugh, Goto was a veteran freelance reporter, working often with other filmmakers and Japanese TV producers. His comments were sometimes featured on Japanese mainstream media.

The 2005 book he wrote about the suffering of children in Sierra Leone was titled "We Want Peace, Not Diamonds."

But Goto had always stressed he was not a war reporter. He had insisted he was instead devoted to telling the story of regular people, one step removed from the war zone.

AP

In this Friday, Jan. 30, 2015 file photo, protesters holding signs bearing a photo of Japanese journalist Kenji Goto who was taken hostage by the Islamic State group appeal the government to save Goto during a rally in front of the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo.

That took him to refugee camps and orphanages. He told the stories of children suffering violence, hunger and nightmares.

In a testament to his charm and integrity, people responded with an outpouring of support to try win his release.

A Facebook page, set up immediately after the first video released by militants last month, quickly drew tens of thousands of "Likes" and photo postings that showed people, from not just Japan but around the world, holding up hand-written signs that said: "I am Kenji."

"Kenji lives on—in all our hearts. In our daily work. Every time you smile with those around you, you will be sure to remember that big smile Kenji always gave us," wrote Taku Nishimae, a filmmaker living in New York and the page's creator.

An online petition demanding the government do more to save Goto collected thousands of signatures. Crowds have gathered outside the prime minister's office, holding up "Free Kenji" and "I am Kenji" signs.

Those who knew Goto said he was a gentle and honest man.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fire at Bangladesh plastics factory kills at least 13

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A fire swept through a plastic packaging factory on Saturday night in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, killing at least 13 people, a fire department official said. Fire department official Mohammed Farhaduzzaman said the fire was brought under control by late Saturday night and a search was under way for more victims. He said it's not immediately clear how many people might be missing, but survivors told him about 70 workers were inside the building when the fire broke out at the five-story factory in Dhaka's Mirpur district.

China offers up to $50K in cash for terror tips in Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities are offering up to 300,000 yuan ($50,000) for tips on terrorism activities in the Himalayan region of Tibet, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. China's recent efforts to fight terrorism has largely involved the neighboring region of Xinjiang, where violent attacks blamed on Muslim separatists have left hundreds of people dead in the past two years. There has been little public knowledge of terrorism in recent years in Tibet, although more than 130 Tibetan Buddhist monks and laypeople have set themselves on fire since 2009 in protest of Beijing's strict controls over the region and their religion, according to overseas international human rights groups. The protesters also have called for the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing believes to be intent on splitting Tibet from China, a charge he denies.

Thai junta tries to curb dissent and keep good terms with US

BANGKOK (AP)—When Thailand's military junta sensed it was being criticized this week, the country's rulers reacted as they always do: by issuing stern warnings and summoning those responsible for talks army leaders like to refer to as "attitude adjustments." But this time, those called to explain themselves were not just domestic opponents of last year's coup. They included the U.S. charge d'affaires, who was asked to clarify a speech by a visiting senior U.S. diplomat in which he urged an end to martial law and suggested that last week's impeachment of ousted former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was politically motivated. The comments Monday by Daniel Russel, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, triggered a predictable backlash of anti-American sentiment from the junta and its supporters. They denounced what they saw as unwanted interference in Thai affairs and bombarded the U.S. Embassy's Facebook page with messages like "Yankees go home. It's none of your business."

Is he dead? PH awaits answer of costly terror raid

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The cellphone message of the Filipino police commandos to their base was triumphant: "Mike 1 bingo," a code meaning they have killed one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects, Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan.

But the euphoria among police generals monitoring the Jan. 25 dawn assault in a southern swampland was brief.

As daybreak lifted their night cover, the young commandos came under intense rebel fire, trapped in the marshy fringes of Mamasapano town, a Muslim rebel stronghold about 2-3 kilometers (1.2-1.8 miles) from where backup police forces waited. Unable to carry Marwan's body, one of the commandos chopped off his finger and another took pictures as proof of his death, according to police officials.

Another policeman kept frantically calling for reinforcements by radio, but standby forces failed to penetrate the battle scenes and the pleas for help eventually vanished.

"There was radio silence, a very long silence," Chief Superintendent Noli Talino, who helped oversee the operation, said in Friday's eulogy, his voice cracking.

The fighting left 44 commandos dead—the biggest single-day combat loss by government forces in recent memory—and a familiar question: Is Marwan dead or alive?

Commanders and a confidential police intelligence report say Marwan was killed, something they expect to be validated by DNA tests. A purported picture of the slain militant circulating in the local media closely resembled Marwan's profile in wanted posters. But many remained skeptical.

In 2012, the Philippine military announced that Marwan and a Singaporean militant known as Mauwiyah were killed, along with a Filipino Abu Sayyaf extremist commander, in a U.S.-backed airstrike on southern Jolo island. The operation employed American-supplied smart bombs for the first time.

Filipino police intelligence officials, however, believed Marwan and Mauwiyah survived and continued hunting them. They have since launched at least two major secret attempts to capture Marwan in the southern Philippines, where according to U.S. authorities, he has been hiding since 2003.

Anger, mourning in Pakistan after mosque bombing kills 59

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Thousands of Shiites across Pakistan mourned and protested Saturday after a bombing at a Shiite mosque in the country killed at least 59 people.

In Shikarpur, the site of the blast, mourners held a mass funeral for the dead in Friday's attack. Thousands of Shite mourners beating their chests and heads, wailing as other non-Shiites also took part.

Shiites organizations also held protest sit-ins in different cities across Pakistan. Television footage showed some protesters burned tires and blocked roads, chanting slogans for arrest of the perpetrators and protection for Shiite worship places.

The death toll in the blast rose

Saturday after three victims died overnight from their wounds, said Abdul Qudoos Kalwar, a senior police official.

The bombing happened in Shikarpur, roughly 500 kilometers (310 miles) north of Pakistan's port city of Karachi. That area of Pakistan has suffered comparatively little violence in contrast to the northwestern tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. Friday's bloodshed raised fears that extremists could be gaining a foothold in the region.

The blast took place when about 250 worshippers gathered in the Shiite mosque for Friday prayers, Kalwar said. Dozens were wounded.

On Saturday, investigators determined a suicide bomber caused the blast, said Saqib Memon, another senior police official in Shikarpur.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was "appalled by such vicious targeting of people on account of their religious affiliation," his spokesman said in a statement.

The Sunni militant group Jundallah claimed responsibility for the attack. The militant group previously has claimed responsibility for attacks on Shiites and other religious minorities, including a 2013 double suicide bombing of an Anglican church in Peshawar that killed 85 people.

Many Sunni extremists do not consider Shiites, who represent as much as 20 percent of Pakistan's population, to be true Muslims. Sunni militants in Pakistan have bombed Shiite mosques, killed Shiite pilgrims traveling to neighboring Iran and assassinated Shiite religious figures and community leaders.

World

Islamic State fighters admit defeat in Syrian town of Kobani

BEIRUT (AP)—The Islamic State group has acknowledged for the first time that its fighters have been defeated in the Syrian town of Kobani and vowed to attack the town again.

In a video released by the pro-IS Aamaq News Agency late Friday, two fighters said the airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition were the main reason why IS fighters were forced to withdraw from Kobani. One fighter vowed to defeat the main Kurdish militia in Syria, the People's Protection Units known as the YPG.

On Monday, activists and Kurdish officials said the town was almost cleared of IS fighters, who once held nearly half of Kobani.

An Associated Press video from inside the town showed widespread destruction, streets littered with debris and abandoned neighborhoods. The video also showed a new cemetery with fresh graves.

The town's famous Freedom Square, with a statue of an eagle spreading its wings, stood intact in the middle of the destruction. The square is near the so-called Kurdish security quarter—an eastern district where Kurdish militiamen maintained security buildings and offices, and which was occupied by IS fighters for about two months until they were forced out earlier in January.

In the newly released IS video, the militant fighters acknowledged that they have been driven from the town.

"A while ago we retreated a bit from Ayn al-Islam because of the bombardment and the killing of some brothers," said one masked fighter, using the group's preferred name for Kobani. He spoke Arabic with a north African accent.

The failure to capture and hold Kobani was a major blow to the extremists. Their hopes for an easy victory dissolved into a costly siege under withering airstrikes by coalition forces and an assault by Kurdish militiamen.

AP

In this picture taken Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, a Syrian Kurdish sniper looks at the rubble in the Syrian city of Ain al-Arab, also known as Kobani.

The United States and several Arab allies have been striking IS positions in Syria since Sept. 23. The campaign aims to push back the jihadi organization after it took over about a third of Iraq and Syria and declared the captured territory a new caliphate.

Now Kurdish officials are hailing the retaking of Kobani as an important step toward rolling back the Islamic State group's territorial gains.

"Kobani Canton is a representative of the resistance against terrorism in the world," said senior Syrian Kurdish official in Kobani, Anwar Muslim. "We hope that the world will support us to come through our struggle against IS."

Meanwhile the IS fighters vowed that their defeat in Kobani will not weaken them.

"The Islamic State will stay. Say that to (U.S. President Barack) Obama," said the fighter, pointing his finger toward destruction on the edge of Kobani.

The fighters both laid blame for their defeat on the coalition air campaign, seemingly downplaying the role played by Kurdish militiamen—whom they refer to as "rats."

Another IS fighter, also speaking in Arabic, said while standing on a road with a green sign with "Ayn al-Islam" sprayed on it: "The warplanes did not leave any construction. They destroyed everything, so we had to withdraw and the rats advanced."

"The warplanes were bombarding us night and day. They bombarded everything, even motorcycles," the fighter said.

IS launched an offensive on the Kobani region in mid-September capturing more than 300 Kurdish villages and parts of the town. As a result of the airstrikes and stiff Kurdish resistance, IS began retreating a few weeks ago, losing more than 1,000 fighters, according to activists.

More than 200,000 Kurds were forced from their homes. Many fled to neighboring Turkey.

Earlier this week, Kurdish officials said YPG fighters have launched a counterattack to retake some of the surrounding villages around Kobani, many of which remain in IS hands.

Iraqi libraries ransacked by Islamic State group in Mosul

BAGHDAD (AP)—When Islamic State group militants invaded the Central Library of Mosul earlier this month, they were on a mission to destroy a familiar enemy: other people's ideas.

Residents say the extremists smashed the locks that had protected the biggest repository of learning in the northern Iraq town, and loaded around 2,000 books—including children's stories, poetry, philosophy and tomes on sports, health, culture and science—into six pickup trucks. They left only Islamic texts.

The rest?

"These books promote infidelity and call for disobeying Allah. So they will be burned," a bearded militant in traditional Afghani two-piece clothing told residents, according to one man living nearby who spoke to The Associated Press. The man, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared retaliation, said the Islamic State group official made his impromptu address as others stuffed books into empty flour bags.

Since the Islamic State group seized a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria, they have sought to purge society of everything that doesn't conform to their violent interpretation of Islam. They already have destroyed many archaeological relics, deeming them pagan, and even Islamic sites considered idolatrous. Increasingly books are in the firing line.

Mosul, the biggest city in the Islamic State group's self-declared caliphate, boasts a relatively educated, diverse population that seeks to preserve its heritage sites and libraries. In the chaos that followed the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein, residents near the Central Library hid some of its centuries-old manuscripts in their own homes to prevent their theft or destruction by looters.

But this time, the Islamic State group has made the penalty for such actions death. Presumed destroyed are the Central Library's collection of Iraqi newspapers dating to the early 20th century, maps and books from the Ottoman Empire and book collections contributed by around 100 of Mosul's establishment families.

Days after the Central Library's ransacking, militants broke into University of Mosul's library. They made a bonfire out of hundreds of books on science and culture, destroying them in front of students.

Civilians flee east Ukraine town as fighting intensifies

DEBALTSEVE, Ukraine (AP)—Outgoing heavy-caliber fire boomed incessantly, shaking the ground and rattling windows around the besieged town. Residents of Debaltseve, seemingly inured to the racket, listened impassively as they mustered at the town hall on Saturday to be evacuated with as many belongings as they could carry.

The government-held town has been without power, water and gas for at least 10 days, prompting many to flee from an intense artillery duel between government and Russian-backed separatist forces. Almost every one of the largely deserted streets in the center showed signs of having been struck by projectiles.

A month of relative quiet in eastern Ukraine was shattered in early January by full-blown fighting as the separatists attempted to claw back additional territory from government hands. Rebel leaders accused Ukraine of mobilizing its forces in advance of an imminent offensive.

Efforts to hold talks on halting the escalating violence have to date been unsuccessful.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a telephone conversation, all expressed hope that negotiations in Minsk, Belarus, will focus on a cease-fire and pulling out heavy weaponry from residential areas, the Kremlin said.

However, representatives for the rebels, Russia, Ukraine and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe left the government compound late evening on Saturday after spending four hours behind closed doors.

Ukraine's envoy, Leonid Kuchma, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that the talks were derailed after the rebel representatives "refused to discuss steps to bring a complete cease-fire and the withdrawal of heavy weaponry."

WORLD BRIEFS

Africa agrees to send 7,500 troops to fight Boko Haram

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—African leaders agreed to send 7,500 troops to fight the Boko Haram insurgency in northeast Nigeria, an African Union official said Saturday, as the international community, including long-time foes the U.S. and Iran, rallied in support of Nigeria against the militants. The move came after the council urged heads of state to endorse the deployment of troops from five West African countries to fight the terror group, said the head of the African Union's Peace and Security Council, Samil Chergui. African leaders who are members of the 54-nation African Union are meeting in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa for a two-day summit that ends Saturday. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon earlier said he supports the AU's move to send a force to fight Boko Haram. Boko Haram is increasing its attacks as Nigeria prepares for Feb. 14 elections. Thousands have been killed in the 5-year insurgency.

South Africa riots raise worry about anti-foreign sentiment

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South African youths recently swept through an intersection in the heart of Soweto township, breaking into immigrant-owned shops and grabbing whatever they could—soda, a loaf of bread, sometimes even the shelves. Nearly 40 years ago, at the same intersection, young blacks marched to protest the white racist rulers of the time, drawing a bloody crackdown that shocked the world. The recent looting and unrest that hit Soweto and other areas around Johannesburg was not as bloody as the anti-apartheid demonstrations and the ensuing bloodshed in 1976. But it alarmed a nation built on the ideals of racial reconciliation and underscored that, two decades after apartheid was replaced by the promise of a "rainbow nation," many South Africans remain marginalized by a lack of economic opportunity. Resentment against foreigners stoked the looting and rioting in late January that killed six people and forced many shopkeepers to flee.

Focus

Cuban youth build secret computer network despite WiFi ban

AP
In this Jan. 4, 2015 photo, Rafael Antonio Broche Moreno talks during an interview with The Associated Press, next to his computer, modem and intranet network cabling at his home in Havana.

HAVANA (AP)—Cut off from the Internet, young Cubans have quietly linked thousands of computers into a hidden network that stretches miles across Havana, letting them chat with friends, play games and download hit movies in a mini-replica of the online world that most can't access.

Home Internet connections are banned for all but a handful of Cubans, and the government charges nearly a quarter of a month's salary for an hour online in government-run hotels and Internet centers. As a result, most people on the island live offline, complaining about their lack of access to information and contact with friends and family abroad.

A small minority have covertly engineered a partial solution by pooling funds to create a private network of more than 9,000 computers with small, inexpensive but powerful hidden WiFi antennas and Ethernet cables strung over streets and rooftops spanning the entire city. Disconnected from the real Internet, the network is limited, local and built with equipment commercially available around the world, with no help from any outside government, organizers say.

Hundreds are online at any moment pretending to be orcs or U.S. soldiers in multiplayer online games such as "World of Warcraft" or "Call of Duty." They trade jokes and photos in chat rooms and organize real-world events like house parties or trips to the beach.

"We really need Internet because there's so much information online, but at least this satisfies you a little bit because you feel like, `I'm connected with a bunch of people, talking to them, sharing files," said Rafael Antonio Broche Moreno, a 22-year-old electrical engineer who helped build the network known as SNet, short for streetnet.

Cuba's status as one of the world's least-wired countries is central to the new relationship Washington is trying to forge with Havana. As part of a new policy seeking broader engagement, the Obama administration hopes that encouraging wider U.S. technology sales to the island will widen Internet access and help increase Cubans' independence from the state and lay the groundwork for political reform.

Cuban officials say Internet access is limited largely because the U.S. trade embargo has prevented advanced U.S. technology from reaching Cuba and starved the government of the cash it needs to buy equipment from other nations. But the government says that while it is open to buying telecommunications equipment from the U.S., it sees no possibility of changing its broader system in exchange for normal relations with the U.S.

Outside observers and many Cubans blame the lack of Internet on the government's desire to control the populace and to use disproportionately high cellphone and Internet charges as a source of cash for other government agencies.

Cuba prohibits the use of WiFi equipment without a license from the Ministry of Communications, making SNet technically illegal. Broche Moreno said he believes the law gives authorities latitude to allow networks like SNet to operate. He described a sort of tacit understanding with officials that lets SNet run unmolested as long as it respects Cuban law—its hundreds of nodes are informally monitored by volunteer administrators who make sure users don't share pornography, discuss politics or link SNet to illicit connections to the real Internet.

"We aren't anonymous because the country has to know that this type of network exists. They have to protect the country and they know that 9,000 users can be put to any purpose," he said. "We don't mess with anybody. All we want to do is play games, share healthy ideas. We don't try to influence the government or what's happening in Cuba ... We do the right thing and they let us keep at it."

Users who break rules can be blocked from the network by their peers for as a little as a day for minor infractions such as slowing down SNet with file-sharing outside prescribed hours, with lifetime bans for violations like distributing pornography.

"Users show a lot of respect for preserving the network, because it's the only one they have," Broche Moreno said. "But me and the other administrators are watching things to make sure the network does what it's meant for."

The Cuban government did not respond to a request for comment on the network.

Before Obama moved to restore full diplomatic ties with Cuba, the U.S. made several attempts to leverage technology against the Cuban government. Contractor Alan Gross was sentenced to 15 years in prison after a U.S. Agency for International Development contractor sent him to Cuba to set up satellite Internet connections. He was freed after five years as part of the deal last month that paved the way for Obama's new Cuba policy.

A separate USAID contractor tried to build a text message-based social network called Zunzuneo whose brief existence was revealed in an Associated Press investigation last year.

Joining SNet requires resources out of reach of many people in a country where the average salary hovers around $25 a month.

Humberto Vinas, 25, studied medical technology and accounting before finding a relatively well-paying job in the kitchen of a bar. He and nine friends shared an SNet node for several months, running hundreds of feet of Ethernet cable over neighbors' roofs until one demanded they take it down, disconnecting most from the network.

"I miss SNet a lot," he said sadly. "You can find out about soccer scores. It allows you to do so much, right from your home."

Cubans have one of the hemisphere's highest average levels of education and years of practice at improvising solutions to scarcity, allowing many to access and share information despite enormous barriers. For as little as a dollar a week or less, many Cubans receive what's known as "the package," weekly deliveries of pirated TV shows, movies, magazines and instructional texts and videos saved on USB memory drives.

There is no obvious indication the U.S. or any other foreign government or group had anything to do with the creation of SNet, making it by far the most impressive example of Cuba's homemade telecommunications engineering.

The network is a series of connected nodes, powerful home computers with extra-strong WiFi antennas that communicate with each other across relatively long distances and distribute signals to a smaller network of perhaps a dozen other computers in the immediate vicinity.

SNet started as a handful of connected users around 2001 and stayed that way for a decade. More than 9,000 computers have connected over the past five years, and about 2,000 users connect on an average day.

Many use SNet to get access to popular TV shows and movies. The system also stores a copy of Wikipedia. It's not necessarily current, but is routinely refreshed by users with true Internet access. There's also a homegrown version of a social network that functions similarly to Facebook.

Because most data passes from computer to computer in SNet, everything takes place much faster than on the achingly slow and expensive connections available from government servers that pass all information through central points.

Broche Moreno estimated it costs about $200 to equip a group of computers with the antennas and cables needed to become a new node, meaning the cost of networking all the computers in SNet could be as little as $200,000. Similar but smaller networks exist in other Cuban cities and provinces.

"It's proof that it can be done," said Alien Garcia, a 30-year-old systems engineer who publishes a magazine on information technology that's distributed by email and storage devices. "If I as a private citizen can put up a network with far less income than a government, a country should be able to do it, too, no?"

Health & Fitness

Milk does a body good? A look at the science

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Embattled milk producers launched a social media campaign this week to rebuild public confidence in the health benefits of their product.

But how healthy is it?

While the government urges milk consumption, some studies have begun to suggest potential ill effects from drinking too much of the white stuff. It gives a body pause, so to speak.

Here then is a quick review of what science currently says about milk's health benefits:

THE OLD HURRAH

A diet rich in milk has long been promoted as a way for children to build strong bones and muscles, and stave off the harms of osteoporosis in seniors. Proponents have especially noted its calcium, potassium, and Vitamin D content. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends daily consumption of fat-free or low-fat milk or dairy products, at 2 to 2 1/2 cups for younger children and 3 cups a day for older children and adults.

RAW MILK CONCERNS

Some consumers say the healthiest type of milk is raw milk, straight from the cow. But health officials say milk must be pasteurized to kill off disease-causing germs like campylobacter and salmonella. Studies indicate pasteurization can affect a few of the vitamins found in milk, like thiamine, vitamin B12, and vitamin C—but milk is only a minor source of these vitamins. Overall, pasteurization does not significantly change the nutritional value of milk—and it may save lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

RECENT QUESTIONS

Some scientists have begun to question previous statements about milk's benefits. For example, some researchers have noted low fracture rates in Asian countries where little milk is consumed, and questioned whether there is enough evidence to support the federal milk consumption recommendations. What's more, some studies have linked milk to risk of ovarian and prostate cancers—though many scientists believe more research is needed before drawing conclusions about milk as a cause.

AP

This Tuesday, July 31, 2007 file photo shows glasses of milk in Frankfurt.

THE SWEDISH STUDY

Last year, a Swedish study published in a British medical journal found women who drank three or more glasses a day died at a nearly twice the rate of those who drank less than one glass a day. Broken bones were more common in women who were heavy milk drinkers, too. Other dairy products were not linked to such problems. The study's lead author—Dr. Karl Michaelsson of Uppsala University—called the results too preliminary to merit a change in dietary recommendations, and said differences in the American diet might diminish the kind of potential harms seen in the Swedes in his study.

THE MILK INDUSTRY SAYS

The Swedish study prompted media headlines such as "Milk may not be very good for bones or the body." Calling it a breaking point, milk producers decided to do something more to address declining milk consumption and anti-milk messages from vegan groups, non-dairy competitors and others. The new social media campaign highlights, for example, how much more protein a consumer can get from cow milk compared to almond milk. Milk producers also are arguing the importance of milk in a culture where soda consumption is high and many kids don't eat recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables.

White House: Science indicates parents should vaccinate kids

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid the measles outbreak stemming from California, the White House is telling parents that science indicates they should vaccinate their children.

President Barack Obama's spokesman, Josh Earnest, said Friday that decisions about vaccinations should be left to parents, but the science on vaccinations "is really clear." Some parents continue to believe debunked research linking vaccines to autism and refuse vaccinate their children.

"I'm not going stand up here and dispense medical advice," Earnest said when asked whether the president supports parents who choose not to vaccinate. "But I am going to suggest that the president's view is that people should evaluate this for themselves, with a bias toward good science and toward the advice of our public health professionals, who are trained to offer us exactly this kind of advice."

About 100 cases of the measles have been reported in the U.S. since last month in the second-biggest outbreak in at least 15 years. Most have been traced directly or indirectly to Disneyland in Southern California.

In Loving Memory

Juan Cruz Aguon

We, the family of the late Juan Cruz Aguon, would like to invite all our families, friends and relatives to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass is offered at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church, beginning Monday, January 26, 2015 through Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

We are sincerely grateful for your presence and support.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Children & Family

Personal Trainer
Low-speed, low-impact exercise
The traditional Chinese discipline of tai chi chuan appeals to people of all ages because it gives beneficial exercise with little or no risk.
Pronounced TIE-JEE-CHOO-ON
• Combines deep breathing, relaxation and gentle, controlled movement
• Looks like slow, graceful dance
1
Weight on both feet
Four steps in 'Brush the knee,' a typical tai chi movement
Shift weight from one foot to the other while moving arms, body and legs
Recommended schedule
Three or more 20- to 30-minute sessions a week; inactive people should start slowly
2
Weight on right foot
Left palm brushes left knee as it passes
3
Begin with classes
at a health club, martial arts school, hospital or community center; after learning movements, practice tai chi alone or with a group
Intensity can vary Depends on how deeply and slowly movements are done and how long arms or legs are lifted
4
Weight on left foot
NOTE: Martial art schools usually emphasize using tai chi for health, but some teach a combat-oriented version
Source: The Physician and Sportsmedicine
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, TNS

Life & Style

Whitney Houston's daughter found unresponsive in tub

ROSWELL, Georgia (AP)—The daughter of late singer and entertainer Whitney Houston was found unresponsive, face down in a bathtub Saturday and taken to a hospital in the north Atlanta suburbs, police said.

Bobbi Kristina Brown was found by her husband, Nick Gordon, and a friend. The friend called the emergency dispatcher while her husband performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Brown because they did not believe she was breathing nor had a pulse, said Officer Lisa Holland, a spokeswoman for the Roswell Police Department.

Brown

When police arrived, they gave Brown additional care until she was taken alive to North Fulton Hospital.

A hospital spokeswoman did not return repeated messages seeking comment on Brown's condition.

"Right now she's still alive at the hospital," Holland said.

Detectives were still at the home Saturday afternoon trying to determine what occurred.

Police were called to the home Jan. 23 for a report of a fight, Holland said. When officers arrived, they found no one there.

Brown, 21, is the only child of Houston and R&B singer Bobby Brown. A representative for the family did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Whitney Houston was found dead in a hotel bathtub on Feb. 11, 2012, in Beverly Hills, California. The 48-year-old Houston had struggled for years with cocaine, marijuana and pills, and her behavior had become erratic.

Authorities examining Houston's death found a dozen prescription drug bottles in the hotel suite. They concluded that Houston accidentally drowned. Heart disease and cocaine use were listed as contributing factors in Houston's death.

Over her career, Houston sold more than 50 million records in the United States alone. Her voice, an ideal blend of power, grace and beauty, made classics out of songs like "Saving All My Love For You," ''I Will Always Love You," ''The Greatest Love of All" and "I'm Every Woman." Her six Grammys were only a fraction of her many awards.

Houston had her first No. 1 hit by the time she was 22, followed by a flurry of No. 1 songs and multiplatinum records.

Houston left her entire estate to her daughter.

Lambert leads ACM Awards with 8 noms

NEW YORK (AP)—Miranda Lambert is continuing her reign as contemporary country queen with eight nominations at this year's Academy of Country Music Awards.

The ACMs announced Friday that Lambert is the top contender, including a nomination for entertainer of the year, pitting her against top-billing male stars Garth Brooks, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and Florida Georgia Line.

Lambert is also nominated for album of the year for "Platinum," female vocalist of the year as well as vocal event and video of the year for "Somethin' Bad'" with Carrie Underwood. "Automatic," Lambert's hit single, earned her a nomination for song of the year and two nominations for single record of the year since she also co-wrote the song.

The ACMs reflect next month's Grammy Awards, where Lambert is nominated in all four country categories, including best country album.

The 31-year-old's main competition at the ACMS—to be held April 19 at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas—is Dierks Bentley, who earned seven nominations, including male vocalist, album, single record, song, video and vocal event of the year.

Last year George Strait won entertainer of the year, but if Lambert takes the top honor home she will be the first woman to do so since Taylor Swift in 2012. Lambert has won female vocalist of the year for five consecutive years and is the current record holder in the category.

Chart-topping duo Florida Georgia Line earned five nominations, while Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney and Eric Church earned four apiece. Glen Campbell, who earned Oscar and Grammy nominations for "I'm Not Gonna Miss You" from the documentary, "Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me," is up for video of the year for the song's music video. The 78-year-old is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Brandy Clark, who is nominated for two Grammys including best new artist, will compete at the ACMS for female vocalist of the year and song of the year since she co-wrote Kacey Musgraves' "Follow Your Arrow," a song about acceptance.

Musgraves, Aldean and Underwood are up for three awards each.

Cynthia Nixon channels personal to play a cancer patient in drama

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Cynthia Nixon's portrayal of a woman and mother dying of cancer in the Sundance drama "James White" hit extremely close to home. The actress saw her own mother die from the disease in the same year she shot the film.

"It's awful to have a parent die and to have you nurse them through their illness, but in some ways, it is also a very precious time," said Nixon. "You realize how grateful you are for each other."

Nixon agreed with the person who called it the anti-"Terms of Endearment" film.

"The film really beautifully captures the horrible slog of it. It's a really brutal and unflinching look at what a terminal illness looks like in its final stages. There aren't these poetic conversations that happen," Nixon said.

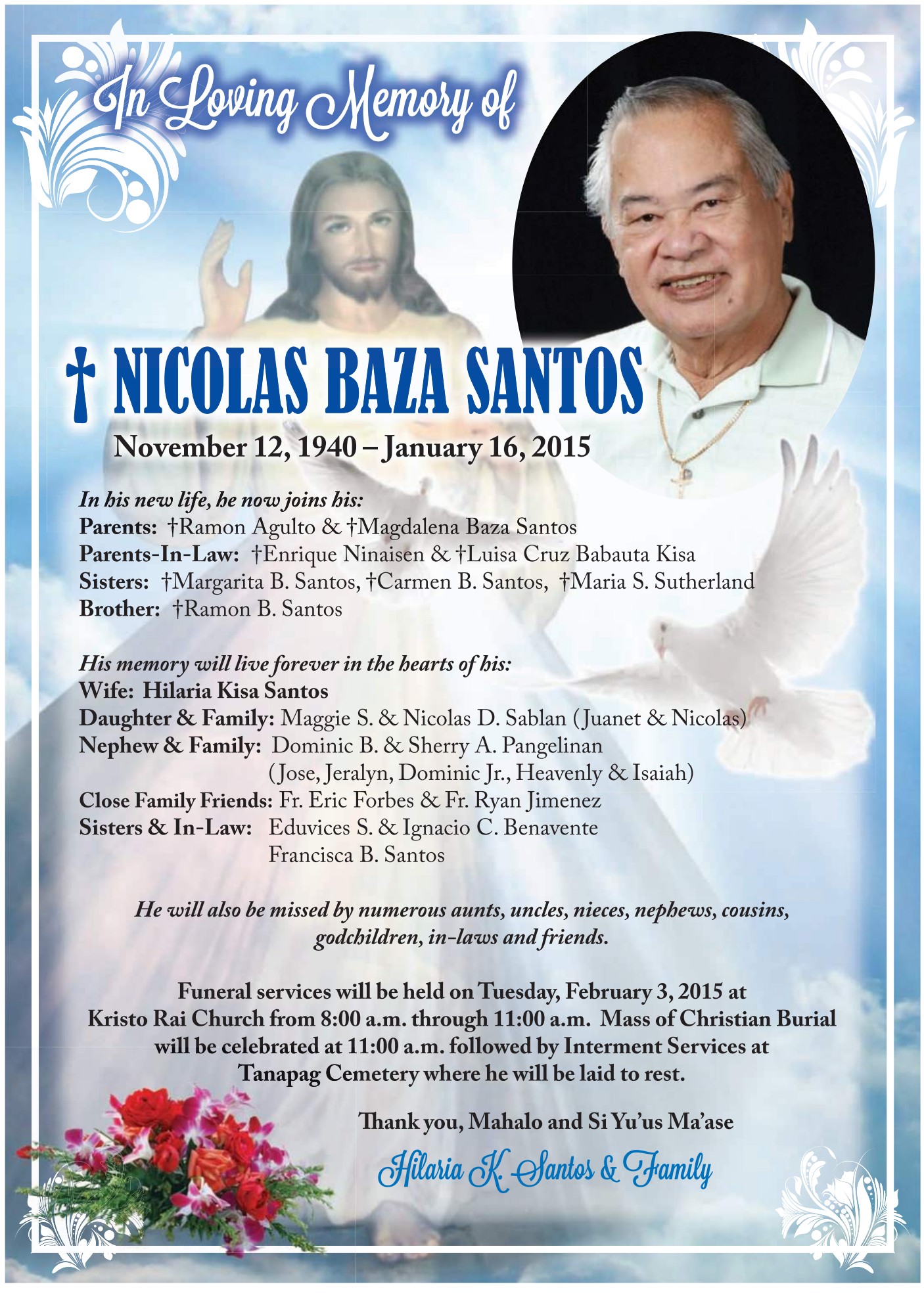
Nixon marveled at how similar her character's bohemian style was to that of her late mother's. She even wore some of her mom's jewelry in the film, a small but important detail in making the story as realistic as possible.

"Even when we're so ill and we're feeling terrible and we're wearing a nightgown that we've worn for three days, you still have on that bracelet or that ring or those earrings that make you feel like the person you used to be and not like a cancer patient. You can still maintain that one percent of the person you used to be," she said.

But "James White," from first time feature director Josh Mond, is not Gail's (Nixon) story: It's her son's.

"Girls" alum Christopher Abbott stars as the eponymous James. He's a self-destructive wreck who would rather get loaded and go to a rave or escape to a beach than deal with the realities of life.

"I think it is the portrait of a young man in freefall, who's lying to himself, who's kidding himself, who is in a total crisis and who is pretending he's not to himself and to everyone else," said Nixon, who added that she and Abbott bonded immediately on set, allowing them to tackle the raw emotions of the story.


In Loving Memory of
† NICOLAS BAZA SANTOS
November 12, 1940 – January 16, 2015
In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Ramon Agulto & †Magdalena Baza Santos
Parents-In-Law: †Enrique Ninaisen & †Luisa Cruz Babauta Kisa
Sisters: †Margarita B. Santos, †Carmen B. Santos, †Maria S. Sutherland
Brother: †Ramon B. Santos
His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:
Wife: Hilaria Kisa Santos
Daughter & Family: Maggie S. & Nicolas D. Sablan (Juanet & Nicolas)
Nephew & Family: Dominic B. & Sherry A. Pangelinan
(Jose, Jeralyn, Dominic Jr., Heavenly & Isaiah)
Close Family Friends: Fr. Eric Forbes & Fr. Ryan Jimenez
Sisters & In-Law: Eduvices S. & Ignacio C. Benavente
Francisca B. Santos
He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, in-laws and friends.
Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at Kristo Rai Church from 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.
Thank you, Mahalo and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Hilaria K. Santos & Family

‘Me and Earl and the Dying Girl’ sweeps Sundance Awards

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—”Me and Earl and the Dying Girl,” a quirky, heartfelt story about a pair of student film lovers who befriend a girl with cancer, won both the U.S. dramatic audience award and the grand jury prize at the 31st Sundance Film Festival awards, announced Saturday.

Thomas Mann, R.J. Cyler and Olivia Cooke lead the cast of the idiosyncratic tear-jerker from director Alfonso Gomez-Rejon, who dedicated the audience award to all the filmmakers and artists in his hometown of Laredo, Texas. Nick Offerman, Connie Britton and Molly Shannon also star.

“My love goes out to the entire cast and crew,” said Gomez-Rejon. “This movie was about processing loss but really to celebrate a beautiful life and a beautiful man, which is my amazing father ... to celebrate his life through humor.”

“The Wolfpack,” Crystal Moselle’s documentary about six movie-loving teenage boys isolated from society, picked up the grand jury prize for best documentary.

“I stalked these kids on the street one day, and here I am,” said Moselle.

Comedian Tig Notaro, whose documentary “Tig” premiered at the Festival, hosted the ceremony.

The 31st Sundance Film Festival wraps on Sunday.

Other winners Saturday:

■ U.S. drama, grand jury prize: “Me and Earl and the Dying Girl”

■ U.S. drama, audience award: “Me and Earl and the Dying Girl”

■ U.S. drama, directing: “The Witch,” Robert Eggers

■ U.S. drama, special jury award for cinematography: “Diary of a Teenage Girl,” Brandon Trost

■ U.S. drama, special jury award for collaborative vision: “Advantageous”

■ U.S. drama, special jury award for editing: “Dope,” Lee Haugen

■ U.S. documentary, grand jury prize: “The Wolfpack”

■ U.S. documentary, audience award: “Meru”

■ U.S. documentary, directing: “Cartel Land,” Matthew Heineman

■ U.S. documentary, special jury award for social impact: “3 1/2 Minutes”

■ U.S. documentary, special jury award for verite filmmaking: “Western”

■ U.S. documentary, special jury award for cinematography: “Cartel Land,” Matthew Heineman, Matt Porwoll

■ U.S. documentary, special jury award for breakout first feature: “(T)error”

■ Alfred P. Sloan feature film prize: “The Stanford Prison Experiment”

■ Waldo Salt screenwriting award: “The Stanford Prison Experiment,” Tim Talbott

■ World cinema drama, grand jury prize: “Slow West”

■ World cinema drama, audience award: “Umrika”

■ World cinema drama, directing: “The Summer of Sangaile,” Alante Kavaite

■ World cinema drama, special jury award for cinematography: “Partisan,” Germain McMicking

■ World cinema drama, special jury award for acting: “The Second Mother,” Regina Case and Camila Mardila

■ World cinema drama, special jury award for acting: “Glassland,” Jack Reynor

■ World cinema documentary, grand jury prize: “The Russian Woodpecker”

■ World cinema documentary, audience award: “Dark Horse”

■ World cinema documentary, directing: “Dreamcatcher,” Kim Longinotto

■ World cinema documentary, special jury award for unparalleled access: “The Chinese Mayor”

■ World cinema documentary, special jury award for impact: “Pervert Park”

■ World cinema documentary, special jury award for editing: “How to Change the World,” Jim Scott

‘Ida’ takes an unlikely road to the Academy Awards

AP
This image released by Music Box Films shows Agata Trzebuchowska in a scene from “Ida.”

NEW YORK (AP)—Pawel Pawlikowski tried to make his film a flop. He shot it in black-and-white, in Polish and without any well-known actors. Commercial prospects were about as grim as the movie’s own exhumation of German-occupied Poland.

“We did everything to make it inaccessible,” says Pawlikowski. “Not for any stupid reasons, but, like, ‘Let’s make a really uncompromising film: a Polish-speaking film in black-and-white with nothing to lose.’”

And yet “Ida” has become arguably the foreign-film hit of the year. It won best picture and three other awards at the European Film Awards; it swept its native Polish Film Awards; it was honored as best foreign film by both New York and Los Angeles film critics groups; and now it’s a two-time Oscar nominee, up for best foreign film and best cinematography.

“It backfired,” Pawlikowski says with a delighted grin. “It confirms all my theories that I never believed in.”

Despite his best efforts to make, he chuckles, “an impregnable art-house movie with unknowns,” ‘’Ida” has mesmerized moviegoers around the world with its beautifully spare images, its deliberate pacing and its uncommon economy of storytelling. (It’s just 82 minutes, or roughly half of a “Hobbit” movie.)

Set in 1961 Stalinist Poland, “Ida,” written by English-born playwright Rebecca Lenkiewicz, is about an orphan novice, Anna (Agata Trzebuchowska), who is sent to meet her judge aunt (Agata Kulesza) before taking her orders. It’s a journey from innocent to experience: Anna learns her real name is Ida and that she’s Jewish.

For many, “Ida” represents the power of a classical, stripped-down cinema, distilled back to its raw elements with electric compositions and resonate silences. David Denby of *The New Yorker* called the film “by far the best movie of the year” (a ranking admittedly shared by this critic).

“It strikes some bigger chord,” says Pawlikowski. “People are hungry for something that doesn’t do this kind of look-at-me noise-making. A film that’s also a bit of a meditation.”

In a recent interview, Pawlikowski, though hobbled by a cold, was both ebullient and bemused by the movie’s unexpected success. “Ida” first premiered inauspiciously at 2013 Telluride Film Festival (one of the first trade reviews turned out to be one of the few negative ones) and the rollout wasn’t aided by the usual funnels of international cinema. After the Venice Film Festival turned it down, “I thought to hell with festivals,” says Pawlikowksi.

Instead, “Ida” slowly gathered force with moviegoers; the Oscars are just the final stop.

“I’ve overshot the mark so far,” he laughs. “Now it’s just abstract. Why not?”

Pawlikowski, 57, isn’t a dyed-in-the-wool art-house filmmaker, and the witty, chatty director conveys little of the heavy austerity of his movie. His last film, “The Woman in the Fifth,” set in Paris, starred Ethan Hawke and Kristen Scott Thomas. His acclaimed 2004 British drama, “My Summer Love,” starred a then unknown Emily Blunt.

He’s recently returned to Warsaw, which he left as a teenager. But Pawlikowski, who has two 20-something children, has mostly lived in London and Paris. He teaches directing and screenwriting in between sporadically making films. He calls himself “culturally incoherent.”

“I’m not a full-time filmmaker,” he says. “I live a life, a quite complicated life since I left Poland at 14 not speaking any other languages. Films are kind of a reflection of where I am at the time. I have to live for a bit and then make a film.”

At a time when many filmmakers mistake running time for ambition, none of Pawlikowski’s films have exceeded 90 minutes. He has, he says, “a natural tendency to synthesize.” On “Ida” he was contracted to turn in a film at least 1½ hours long, but there were no quibbles when he came in shorter.

“I wanted to make a film where you suggest as much as possible by showing as little as possible,” he says.

It’s a homecoming. Pawlikowski has moved just down the block from where he grew up. The black-and-white, 4-by-3 academy ratio look of “Ida” was also inspired by old family photographs and what he calls their “slightly incompetent framing.”

During production, he began tilting the camera up to the sky, filling the frame with gray skies and adding to the movie’s vertical spiritual perspective. The original cinematographer, Ryszard Lenczewski, didn’t like the idea, and left the film. The camera operator, Lukasz Zal, took over. (The two share in the Oscar nomination.)

Ewan McGregor plays Jesus and the devil in Sundance epic

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Epic is not usually a term associated with films coming out of the Sundance Film Festival, which makes director Rodrigo Garcia’s imagined story of Jesus’s journey through the desert even more striking.

Shot by “Gravity” and “Birdman” cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki in southern California’s Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and aided by a precise and all-encompassing Dolby Atmos sound mix, “Last Days in the Desert” looks, feels and sounds big. How could a story that takes on both Jesus and the devil (both played by Ewan McGregor) and their relationship to God not be? But for Garcia, it’s just a small family drama.

In the film, Jesus comes across a family living in the middle of the desert and becomes involved in their lives for a brief time. The mother (Ayelet Zurer) is dying, the father (Ciarán Hinds) is a stoic isolationist, and the son (Tye Sheridan) longs to leave for a life in Jerusalem.

McGregor

“The desert is a big setting, but the story is super interpersonal about these relationships,” Garcia said. “In some ways it is a kitchen sink drama, even if one of the dads is God.”

Garcia thought of shooting in Israel, but for various reasons, including costs, it just wasn’t going to be feasible for the production. “I didn’t want it to look like an American western desert, the way Colorado and Utah look,” he said.

After hours of exhaustive online searches, he stumbled across the almost alien landscapes of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and knew he had it.

In addition to Lubezki’s striking cinematography, the desert world is made more real through sound.

“There’s very little music and almost no dialogue in the first part of the movie. It presented a lot of great opportunities for creative sound design,” said Dolby Institute director Glenn Kiser. The film was remixed with the sophisticated system thanks to a grant from the Dolby Family Sound Fellowship.

But a small character drama like “Last Days in the Desert” lives and dies by its lead. Garcia knew that McGregor had the right combination of intelligence, compassion and empathy to portray Jesus and the devil.

“It’s quite an extraordinary situation to be playing two roles in any film. It’s quite daunting when one of them is Jesus,” said McGregor following Sunday’s premiere of the film.

But Garcia also knew that he would eventually have to explain why he cast a white actor in the role.

“I am sensitive to the fact that so many times and in many egregious ways white actors have played non-white characters. But I felt like I could take that liberty because I was not doing the historical Jesus, I was not doing a divine Jesus. I was doing a parable,” he said.

“I understand the question. I can only put myself at the mercy of the court. I myself couldn’t care if I go see an all-black ‘Hamlet’ for example,” Garcia said.

As a Colombian-born and Mexico-raised director living in Los Angeles, Garcia said that there are Mexican and Colombian stories that he would love to tell on screen, but he hasn’t really gotten the opportunity to do so yet. “So far it’s been easier to make films in English, honestly, just from a fundraising point of view,” he said.

For now, though, he’s content to stay in the independent world. It’s the only way he’s been able to tell the stories that he wants to tell.

Justin Timberlake shares baby news on his birthday

NEW YORK (AP)—It's Justin Timberlake's birthday, but it's another birth date that's on his mind—that of his future son or daughter.

The superstar shared a picture of a bulging belly—presumably belonging to wife Jessica Biel—on Instagram on Saturday, his 34th birthday. He wrote that he was getting the greatest gift ever this year and added: "CAN'T WAIT."

The sex of the baby is not yet known; the actor-singer joked that the couple is taking bets.

The Grammy-winner Timberlake married Biel in 2012. It will be the first child for both. Biel's pregnancy has been rumored for weeks, but Timberlake's post is the first official confirmation.

AP
In this Tuesday April 23, 2013 file photo, actor and singer Justin Timberlake and wife, actress Jessica Biel, attend the TIME 100 Gala in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Elvis kitsch up for auction after quirky owner's death

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP)—Thousands of Elvis Presley-themed items are going up for auction this weekend in north Mississippi. They're from the kitschy collection of the late Paul MacLeod. The Elvis super fan operated his home as Graceland Too, a roadside museum dedicated to the king of rock 'n' roll. MacLeod died last summer, and his estate is selling the things he collected, including albums, ceramic figurines and commemorative plates. It's also selling MacLeod's pink Cadillac, a nonfunctioning electric chair he made in tribute to "Jailhouse Rock" and the house itself. The museum—not affiliated with Presley's Graceland estate in nearby Memphis, Tennessee—was a late-night favorite of intoxicated college students and tourists. Attorney Phillip Knecht, who represents MacLeod's estate, says there is no minimum bid on the items.

Rep: Val Kilmer undergoing tests for a tumor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Val Kilmer is undergoing tests for a possible tumor, according to his representative. Liz Rosenberg confirmed Saturday that the 55-year-old actor is at a Los Angeles hospital and that doctors are "encouraged by his progress" and hopeful he will make a full recovery. Rosenberg says the actor's two children, 23-year-old Mercedes and 19-year-old Jack, are caring for him. Kilmer is known for roles in movies ranging from "Top Gun" to "Heat" to "Tombstone." Kilmer's condition was first reported by TMZ.com.

Imagine Dragons' bassist: Don't make Seahawks the hero

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — Imagine Dragons bassist Ben McKee has a simple reason he wants the New England Patriots to win the Super Bowl — he doesn't want to see the Seattle Seahawks made into heroes. McKee is a native of Forestville in Northern California and roots for the San Francisco 49ers. He doesn't want to see any good fortune visit a division rival, even if the Patriots have been criticized by some for playing an entire half of their last game with underinflated footballs. "I would hate to see the Seahawks as heroes," McKee said on Friday before he and his band played the DirecTV Super Fan Fest in Glendale, Arizona.

Wahlberg and Bay reunite for pre-Super Bowl charity event

PARADISE VALLEY, Arizona (AP) — "Transformers" star Mark Wahlberg and director Michael Bay reunited Saturday for a charity event that organizers say raised more than $1 million. The pair served as celebrity hosts for the Big Game Big Give event on the eve of the Super Bowl. Wahlberg and Bay held private sessions with donors. The pair worked together on the fourth installment of the "Transformers" franchise. The fund channels charitable causes for celebrities and athletes.

Kasem's children urge elder abuse prosecution vs widow

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The children of Casey Kasem are urging Los Angeles police to make progress in an elder abuse investigation focusing on the radio legend's widow.

Kasem's children claimed at a Friday news conference that the investigation into Jean Kasem's care that began last June has stalled.

But police spokeswoman Jane Kim says detectives are still actively investigating, though she wouldn't provide details.

The district attorney's office says no case has been presented to prosecutors.

Kasem's wife of more than 30 years and his children from a previous marriage fought over the radio personality's care in his final days.

Daughter Kerri was appointed caretaker and has said her stepmother's actions shortened Kasem's life.

Jean Kasem has denied she caused her husband harm. Her lawyers did not respond to calls seeking comment Friday.

Australian paper mocked for obit of 'The Thorn Birds' author

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's main national newspaper was facing sharp criticism over its obituary of the nation's most famous author, whom it described as plain and overweight.

McCullough

The Australian newspaper's obituary of Colleen McCullough, whose novel *The Thorn Birds* sold 30 million copies worldwide and who died on Thursday at age 77 after a long illness, opened not with a list of her myriad accomplishments, but with a description of her appearance.

"Colleen McCullough, Australia's best-selling author, was a charmer," the obituary began. "Plain of feature, and certainly overweight, she was, nevertheless, a woman of wit and warmth. In one interview, she said: "I've never been into clothes or figure and the interesting thing is I never had any trouble attracting men."

Soon, the hashtag myozobituary was trending on Twitter, as people across the world mocked the publication for what many viewed as a blatantly sexist treatment of a lauded literary figure.

British author Neil Gaiman, who is married to singer Amanda Palmer, tweeted: "Although his beard looked like someone had glued it on & his hair would have been unconvincing as a wig, he married a rockstar. #myozobituary"

Criticism of the obituary was twofold: One, that the paper chose to focus the top of its story on McCullough's appearance rather than her achievements, which included spending 10 years working as a neuroscientist at Yale Medical School in the United States, establishing the neurophysiology department at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital, and writing 25 novels.

The other critique was the implication that someone who was plain and overweight could "nevertheless" be witty and warm.

"A person of warmth and wit DESPITE being overweight? That's incredible!!!! (also talent and stuff) #everydaysexism," tweeted Kerri Sackville, columnist for the rival Fairfax newspapers.

"I did not realize that this was how we were doing obituary ledes, now," *The Washington Post* wrote. "Now that I know, here are some obituaries for men, updated lest we fall behind the new standard. Teddy Roosevelt: Resembling a fat walrus in little spectacles, he was, nevertheless, president at one point or another."

Shakira gives birth to 2nd baby with Spanish football star

MADRID (AP)—Colombian pop singer Shakira says she has given birth to a boy, her second child with partner, Spanish football star Gerard Pique.

Shakira

In a statement on her official Twitter account Friday, Shakira, 37, said Sasha Pique Mebarak was born Thursday at 9.54 p.m. in Barcelona.

The note said the name Sasha was of Greek and Russian descent and meant "defender of mankind" and "warrior."

The statement said mother and baby were in excellent health.

The couple's first child, Milan, a boy, was born in January 2013 in Barcelona.

Shakira and 27-year-old Pique have been a couple for the past four years.

Woman's red face gains her unwanted attention

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem with blushing. Whenever I'm the center of attention, even if it's with just one other person, my face goes bright red. This even happens when I'm not feeling embarrassed.

I've learned to cope with the feeling of my face flushing. What I'm having trouble with is people's comments about why my face is so red. I've never been able to come up with a good response. Telling them I'm not really embarrassed is met with skepticism. Please help.

RED-FACED IN MEMPHIS

DEAR RED-FACED: My advice is to be upfront and tell the questioner that you don't know why it happens, but you're not embarrassed. As you already know, blushing can happen if someone suffers from a social phobia. In cases like that, counseling and support groups can help. However, because you find it happening even when you are not pressured or embarrassed, discuss it with your physician to be sure there isn't an underlying physical problem.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating my 42-year-old boyfriend, "Mike," for a year. I love him, but he's a heavy drinker. He has a glass or two of whiskey on a daily basis and goes through a huge bottle of whiskey every weekend. (He also drinks beer like water.) When I asked him to cut back, he refused because he "loves" whiskey. I have never seen him drunk or act intoxicated, so he obviously has a high tolerance.

It bothers me that Mike drinks so much and that he won't cut back. I told him I wouldn't marry him unless he does. My problem is, I don't know whether he's an alcoholic since he doesn't ever show signs of intoxication. I've been told that alcoholism is a progressive disease and that it will only increase.

What constitutes an alcoholic? Is it possible for Mike to drink every day but not be one? I don't want to lose him, but he also has a very bad temper, and I'm afraid it's not a good combination if we were to get married.

TORN IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR TORN: You are right to be concerned. Even if Mike promised "not to drink so much," he might backslide on his promise after the wedding.

Also, has it occurred to you that the whiskey may be part of what is causing Mike's bad temper? Large quantities of alcohol have been known to alter a person's perception, and the results can be explosive. If you haven't already done so, consider attending an Al-Anon meeting, which may confirm this.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I'm not a medical doctor, but it would be interesting to know what your boyfriend's physician thinks about the amount of alcohol he consumes, because the quantity you say Mike puts away may put him at risk for cirrhosis of the liver.

This may be more information than you asked for, but I don't think Mike is marriage material because it appears he is already wedded to his bottle.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

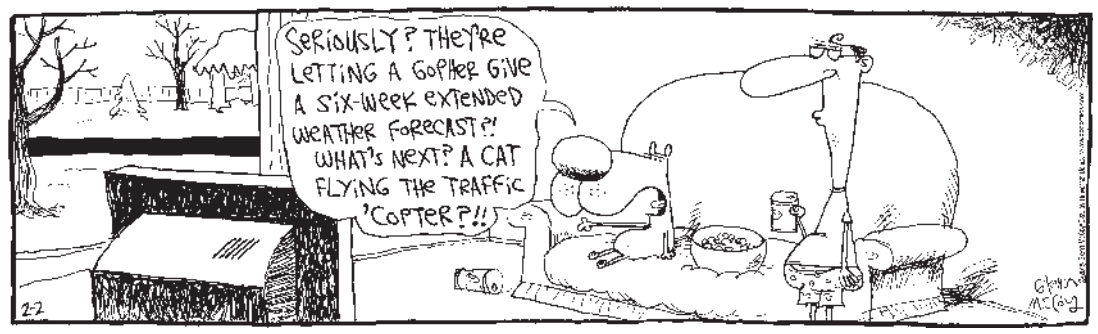
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW'S THE FARNSWORTH PROJECT GOING?
HM? OH, I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT YET.
ISN'T IT DUE SOON?
MAY 7TH. I WOULDN'T CALL THAT SOON.
I'M PRETTY SURE YOU SAID FEBRUARY 7TH.
WHAT?? LET ME CHECK MY CALEN...
DID YOU JUST HEAR A SCREAM?
SOUNDED MORE LIKE A WAIL TO ME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

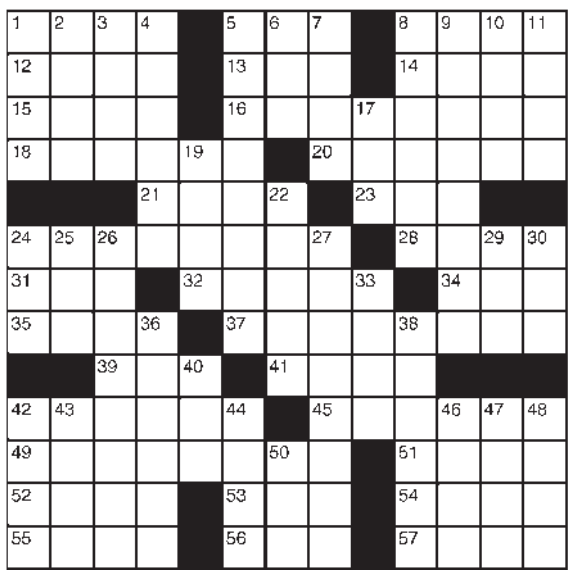
ACROSS
1 Hobbyist
5 Ballpark figure?
8 Big name in energy bars
12 Gilligan's home
13 Salary
14 Staffer
15 "Where have you —?"
16 Popular word game
18 Former German chancellor Willy
20 Shaded fabric designs
21 Franc replacement
23 Thanksgiving dessert
24 Game for kingmakers?
28 Engrave deeply
31 Corral
32 No-brainer course
34 Sock part
35 Sciences' partners
37 Real estate game
39 With it, once
41 Zilch
42 Corresponded
45 Huey, Dewey or Louie
49 Long-popular TV game show
51 Grow weary
52 Hathaway or Heche
53 Pick a target
54 Eye part
55 Clarinet insert
56 Filling station supply
57 Minimal change

DOWN
1 Variety of lettuce
2 Addict
3 Dog's nuisance
4 Small desert fox
5 Where salmon go to spawn
6 PC alternative
7 Fire (Pref.)
8 Hack
9 Opera's text
10 Between jobs
11 Lawyer's remunerations
17 Rock music enhancer
19 Marquess' superior
22 Bean or Welles
24 Tax expert (Abbr.)
25 The girl
26 Invest with power
27 Roget's listings
29 Army rank (Abbr.)
30 Call to attention?
33 Top-rated
36 Oozed
38 Type of ulcer
40 Pod dweller
42 Open slightly
43 Hereditary component
44 Haul
46 Employ
47 Burnett of CNN
48 Into the sunset
50 24 horas

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	F	F		P	U	G	S		C	A	M	P
A	L	I		I	S	N	T		A	S	E	A
F	E	N	G	S	H	U	I		J	I	N	X
S	E	D	A	T	E		F	L	U			
			T	O	R		L	E	N	W	A	Y
C	R	F	F	I		R	F	S		F	R	F
H	A	L	S		C	O	N		R	A	I	L
E	V	A		W	A	X		F	E	R	A	L
F	E	N	D	E	R		J	C	G			
			A	B	E		A	R	I	S	E	S
O	P	A	L		F	E	N	E	S	T	R	A
I	A	I	L		U	R	I	S		E	G	G
O	N	I	Y		:	A	S	T		M	O	F

Friday's answer 2-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shakira, 38; Christie Brinkley, 61; Brent Spiner, 66; Graham Nash, 73.

Happy Birthday: Don't let the little things get to you. Consider what you can do to get ahead and put your personal problems in perspective. You can use this year to take advantage of opportunities for yourself, or you can spin your wheels and complain about the prospects you let pass you by. Take control and make each day count. Your numbers are 6, 13, 16, 23, 28, 36, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put more effort into self-improvement. Trying to change what's going on around you will not satisfy you. Personal change is achievable, and can make the difference between finding happiness and feeling dissatisfied. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your accomplishments will allow you to expand your options with regard to work and partnerships. A joint venture will turn out best if you share responsibilities equally. Romance is in the stars and will contribute to making a promise you won't regret. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be careful not to offer too much to others. A problem with someone older in your life is likely to lead to added responsibilities. Don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness. Greater focus on personal finances and investments will be necessary. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take what you enjoy doing most and turn it into a profitable pastime. A partnership will make it easier for you to achieve your goals. Overspending will lead to conflict and stress. Don't let an emotional incident spin out of control. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Step it up a notch and make things happen. You have more control than you realize, and with a little added push, you can make the changes that will bring about greater happiness. Keep moving past any relationship problems you face. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a look at what you've accomplished and think about what you have left to do. Don't procrastinate when you should be taking the first step in a direction you know will satisfy you personally and professionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep close watch over the people who give you cause for concern. You have to monitor situations carefully, but refrain from meddling. Your ideas are good, but forcing your will on others will not bring the results you are looking for. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Traveling a long distance will provide you with valuable information as well as supply you with the experience you need to bring about positive change in your personal life. Romance will help to improve an important relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Watch out for someone who is trying to derail your plans or hurt your reputation. It will be up to you to pull things together and make everything functional. Property or investment will not be as it appears. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be tempted to overspend, overdo or overanalyze. Put more into getting things done and less into pondering over where to begin. An old acquaintance or colleague will have something to offer. Do your best to reconnect. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Dealing with a work-related matter is likely to spark a question that can make you look bad. Be ready to support your actions with facts. Keep a level head and refuse to be tempted to exaggerate in order to prove your point. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The more dedicated and passionate you are, the better you will do personally and professionally. Romance is highlighted and can bring about an interesting change in your personal life. Express your true feelings. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, devoted and very admirable. You are intelligent and thoughtful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4						8	9	1
		6		3				7
	7		8		9			2
		9			5	2		
	5			9			3	
		1	4			6		
6			9		8		2	
9				5		7		
5	4	7						3

Difficulty Level ★ 2/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	2	3	5	4	7	9	6
5	9	3	7	2	6	4	8	1
6	4	7	8	1	9	5	2	3
7	3	6	2	8	5	1	4	9
9	5	8	6	4	1	3	7	2
4	2	1	9	7	3	8	6	5
1	8	4	5	6	2	9	3	7
2	7	9	1	3	8	6	5	4
3	6	5	4	9	7	2	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GROUNDHOG DAY Solution: 9 letters

S	T	S	A	C	E	R	O	F	P	L	A	N	S	R
P	T	T	P	W	O	D	A	H	S	P	R	I	N	G
E	R	N	D	O	W	N	I	E	G	R	E	M	E	D
E	A	E	E	E	P	L	A	V	I	R	R	A	P	E
P	D	T	T	M	E	Y	D	U	O	L	C	Y	G	Z
R	I	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	I
E	T	A	R	U	C	C	A	E	R	A	I	N	B	N
D	I	T	M	I	W	E	N	E	T	L	Y	U	L	G
I	O	E	I	I	T	T	M	U	M	R	R	S	A	O
C	N	A	N	N	U	A	L	M	O	R	E	P	R	C
T	S	T	E	D	H	L	O	T	O	N	N	A	U	E
S	E	D	S	T	S	S	Ⓢ	Ⓦ	Ⓔ	Ⓝ	N	N	T	R
R	O	O	R	E	R	O	L	K	L	O	F	A	L	G
R	I	O	Y	E	N	W	A	T	U	S	X	N	U	P
L	N	F	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	B	A	C	K

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Accurate, Announcements, Annual, Arrival, Back, Burrow, Celebrations, Cloudy, Cultural, Determines, Down, Emerge, Ends, February, Fersommlinge, Folklore, Food, Forecasts, Late, Naps, News, North America, Peeps, Phil, Plans, Pops, Predicts, Punxsutawney, Recognized, Retreat, Rodent, Shadow, Soil, Spring, Story, Sunny, Tents, Traditions, Winter

Last Friday's Answer: Aperitifs

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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(1) Marketing Manager
- Must have knowledge in Marine Sports Activities
- Oversee or monitor new trends of Marine Sports Services
- Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
- Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
- Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
AQUAVILLE INCORPORATION
(1) Marketing Manager
- Must have knowledge in Marine Sports Activities
- Oversee or monitor new trends of Marine Sports Services
- Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
- Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
- Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

Modern Venture, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement
6 Masseuse
1 Manager
2-3 years' experience required.
Chinese speaking is a plus.
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GARDENER
Minimum three (3) years of work experience; Must have working knowledge of landscaping; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays

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Minimum one (1) year work experience; preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience required; Must be able to write, read and speak fluently in Chinese and English.

The Front Desk is a 24-hour operational department. The person selected for this position will work graveyards shifts, including weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 9th, 2015.
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Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

YUEYANG INTERNATIONAL DBA
FISHERMAN'S WHARF SEAFOODS RESTAURANT
IMMEDIATE HIRING

3-Cooks
6-Waitresses
1-Kitchen Helper
1-Bartender

Salary will commensurate to experience and qualifications. Must have work related experience. U.S. qualified workers preferred, but not required. Interested applicants, please call 233-0903 or 783-0309 and look for Marj or Cindy or apply in person at Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan, Middle Road.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (1)
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Please send application by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on February 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

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$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

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235-6527/8.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Opening Date: January 28, 2015 Closing Date: Until Filled

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SALARY: NEGOTIABLE

We are actively seeking individuals who are detail oriented, and have a passion for facilitating meaningful learning of the course competencies and curriculum.

Prospective Instructor should be:
- Responsible for instructing and facilitating meaningful learning of course competencies and curriculum.
- Fosters a culture of learning and delivers interactive, dynamic and energetic training style necessary to engage multicultural students.
- Supports all facets of learning environment and learning assessments.

PREFERRED: U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or FAS citizen.
EDUCATION: Applicants claiming degrees or credit hours are required to provide college transcript.

WHERE TO APPLY:
Applications are available at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau. For more information call (670) 234-3238 or email at trainingacademy@gu.g4s.com

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WHATZIT Solution: An uphill struggle

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Rodgers wins MVP, Watt unanimous top AP defensive player

PHOENIX (AP)—Just living the dream. And looking for more.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers won his second MVP award Saturday night, and J.J. Watt swept away the voters the way he sweeps quarterbacks off their feet to take top defensive honors.

Rodgers, also the 2011 Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award winner, took this one in somewhat surprisingly easy fashion over Watt. The Packers quarterback received 31 votes for the 2014 award from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league. Houston's Watt, seeking to become the first defensive player to win MVP since 1986, got 13 votes.

Rodgers threw for 38 touchdowns and a league-low five interceptions; he has thrown 512 passes at home without a pick. He led the Packers to two victories at season's end despite playing with a severe calf injury.

"I feel so fortunate to live out my dreams, year after year," Rodgers said Saturday night. "

"It can't help but sink in when you play for the Packers. When you live in Green Bay you know about the Lombardi years, Bart Starr and all the guys who made those teams special. You like to be part of something special yourself."

Watt, the ultra-energetic and versatile Texans end, is the first unanimous choice for an AP award since Tom Brady won Most Valuable Player in 2007, and the first for top defensive player under the current voting setup.

"I'm always trying to raise the bar," he said. "The moment you get complacent is the moment you begin your decline. When you start to feel like you've made it, when you feel like you're doing pretty good, that's when you start to fall back."

NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray of Dallas won Offensive Player, while the Arizona Cardinals swept coaching honors. Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski took the Comeback Player award, but was not on hand because, well, New England has a rather important date with Seattle on Sunday in the Super Bowl.

Murray, who ran away with the rushing title with 1,845 yards—nearly 500 more than any other player—also topped the NFL with 2,261 yards from scrimmage. He scored 13 touchdowns in helping the Cowboys win the NFC East.

That overwhelming performance earned him 26 votes as Murray easily outdistanced Rodgers (15 votes).

"I want to say thank you to the Jones family for taking a chance on me four years ago out of Oklahoma," Murray said. "It's been a privilege to play there. Hopefully we can continue that."

Murray's contract is up.

"I don't think it's any surprise or any secret where I want to play next year," he said.

Arians took his second Coach of the Year award in three seasons after leading his injury-ravaged Cardinals to an 11-5 record and a wild-card playoff berth. He was the top coach in 2012 as an interim, stepping in for the ill Chuck Pagano and leading the Colts to the postseason.

His defensive coordinator in Arizona, Todd Bowles, won the first Assistant Coach of the Year award. Bowles has parlayed his work with the Cardinals into a head coaching job with the Jets.

"I wouldn't be head coach of the year if it wasn't for him and the job he did," Arians said. "I'm so happy that we started that award and he got it for the first time. Now he's going to do a great job for the Jets."

Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who made the play of the year against the Cowboys with a one-handed snag of a touchdown pass while falling backward, was voted top offensive rookie. Beckham tied Michael Irvin's NFL mark with nine consecutive games of 90 yards receiving and finished with 91 receptions for 1,305 yards and 12 TDs.

"This is a great class that I came in," Beckham said. "Part of the reason that I wanted to come out (early from LSU) was to be included in this class."

Rams tackle Aaron Donald won top defensive rookie honors. A force against the run and the pass, Donald had 37 tackles, nine assists, and led all rookies with nine sacks. He was one of three rookies initially selected for the Pro Bowl.

"Hard work pays off," Donald explained.

In his fourth pro season, Watt earned his second such honor with 20 1-2 sacks, 78 tackles—29 for losses—50 quarterback hits, four forced fumbles and 10 blocked passes.

He is the first NFL player with multiple 20-sack seasons. Watt also had 20 1-2 sacks in 2012, his other top defensive player season.

The AP awards were given out during the "NFL Honors" TV program. Also during the show, Carolina linebacker Thomas Davis won the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

"This award means a great deal to me, as it symbolizes the valued work that the NFL, its players, and its 32 teams do in the community," said Davis, a 10-year veteran.

Bears defensive end Jared Allen won the Salute to Service Award. USAA will contribute $25,000 in Allen's honor to the official aid societies representing all five military branches.

AP

Aaron Rodgers poses with the 2014 FedEx Air Player of the Year Award trophy at the "4th Annual NFL Honors" awards show on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015 at Symphony Hall in Phoenix, Ariz. FedEx is the Official Delivery Service Sponsor of the NFL.

Sons represent late Junior Seau at Hall of Fame announcement

PHOENIX (AP)—One by one, the newest members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame stepped onto the stage as their names were called. When the eighth man elected Saturday, the late Junior Seau, was announced, his two sons stood with the group.

"I wish," 25-year-old Tyler Seau said later, "he was here in person with us."

A field-covering, hard-hitting linebacker, the charismatic Seau, who committed suicide at age 43 in 2012, was the only first-time eligible candidate in the Hall's class of 2015. Also getting in Saturday, a day before the Super Bowl, were modern-day players Jerome Bettis, Tim Brown, Charles Haley and Will Shields, contributors Bill Polian and Ron Wolf, and senior selection Mick Tingelhoff.

"It's hard when you come into a group of men that have done what they've done, at their caliber, and they're sharing stories and memories that they had together and playing against each other," Tyler Seau said. "It makes you emotional."

Researchers who studied Junior Seau's brain said it showed signs of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disease connected to repeated head injuries, including concussions.

His death, less than 2 1/2 years after the end of his playing career, resonated among players in the league, raising worry about the physical and emotional toll the sport takes.

Junior Seau played in the NFL for 20 seasons, the first 13 with the San Diego Chargers, followed by three with Miami and four with New England. He was Defensive Player of the Year for San Diego in 1992, made six All-Pro teams, and was a member of the league's All-Decade team of the 1990s.

"He never really needed an award to solidify how good he was. This kind of stuff was more for his family, for his mom, his dad, his brothers. Just to make them proud, make his family proud," Tyler Seau said. "For him, he knew what work he put in. So he knew where he was and where he stood amongst these men. And he's rightfully in."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said this week he "loved" having Seau on his roster.

"I can't imagine having a Professional Football Hall of Fame without Junior Seau in it," said Belichick, whose team plays the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's Super Bowl.

"I'd say the one word that comes to me when I think about Junior and football is `passion.'"

Bettis was a burly running back nicknamed The Bus who began a 13-season career by earning Rookie of the Year honors for the Rams. He capped it by winning the 2006 Super Bowl with the Steelers in a game played in his hometown of Detroit.

His 13,662 yards rushing rank fifth in history.

"To think a little fat kid who had never played football until high school," Bettis said, "to think I can ascend to this level, this is something I never thought of, never dreamed of."

When Brown retired after the 2004 season, he ranked No. 2 in NFL history with 14,934 yards receiving, No. 3 with 1,094 catches, and No. 3 with 100 touchdown catches. This was his sixth year of eligibility.

"You know you have to wait your turn," the 1987 Heisman Trophy winner said. "I came in this year hoping for better things."

Haley, a defensive end and linebacker, needed to wait 11 years to get in after becoming the first player in NFL history to play on five Super Bowl-winning teams. He called the late 49ers coach Bill Walsh "a father figure to me."

Shields was a guard for Kansas City from 1993-2006, never missing a game in his 14 seasons. He was a first-team All-Pro three times, a second-team All-Pro four times, and was a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Polian and Wolf were general managers who built Super Bowl champions. Tingelhoff retired in 1978 after starting all 240 games of his career as the center for the Minnesota Vikings.

Five nominees were eliminated in Saturday's final vote: Tony Dungy, Kevin Greene, Marvin Harrison, Orlando Pace and Kurt Warner. Earlier in the day, the 46 members on the selection committee reduced the list of 15 modern-day finalists by cutting players Morten Andersen, Terrell Davis and John Lynch, and coaches Don Coryell and Jimmy Johnson.

A candidate needs 80 percent of the vote to get in.

The induction ceremony is in August at Canton, Ohio.

Horford, Hawks extend streak with 91-85 win over 76ers

ATLANTA (AP)— Al Horford scored 23 points, including a tying basket after Philadelphia took its first lead late in the game, and the Atlanta Hawks recovered after squandering a 21-point lead to beat the 76ers 91-85 on Saturday night and stretch their franchise-record winning streak to 19 games.

The Hawks led by 21 in the first half but the 76ers came back to take their first lead at 83-81 on a jam by Nerlens Noel with less than 3 minutes remaining.

Horford scored to pull the Hawks even, and Dennis Schroeder's 3-pointer with 1:35 left gave Atlanta an 86-83 advantage. Following a miss by Philadelphia's K.J. McDaniels, Horford's jumper gave the Hawks a five-point lead.

Horford had a game-high 11 rebounds, four assists and three blocks.

Luc Mbah a Moute, Michael Carter-Williams and Jerami Grant each had 13 points for Philadelphia, denied its first three-game winning streak of the season. Noel had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Schroeder and Paul Millsap each had 15 points for Atlanta.

AP

Atlanta Hawks guard Jeff Teague (0) drives against Philadelphia 76ers forward Robert Covington (33) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015.

Pistons 114, Rockets 101

In Auburn Hills, Mich., D.J. Augustin had 28 points and 12 assists, and Detroit held off former teammate Josh Smith and the Houston Rockets.

Smith was booed throughout his return to the Palace, just more than a month after the Pistons waived the high-priced forward. He had seven points and seven rebounds, shooting only 3 of 11 from the field. James Harden scored 21 of his 26 points in the second half, returning from a bruised left knee to help the Rockets nearly rally from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a season-high 28 for Detroit, which snapped a four-game skid and ended Houston's four-game winning streak.

Raptors 120, Wizards 116, OT

In Washington, Kyle Lowry scored 23 points and streaking Toronto defeated Washington to win in overtime for the second consecutive night after losing a large second-half lead.

Lou Williams added 19 points and Amir Johnson scored 17 for the Raptors, who tied a season high with their sixth straight victory.

John Wall, battling migraines and a sprained right ankle, was a game-time decision for Washington. He started and led all scorers with 28 points and had 12 assists. Bradley Beal added 26 points.

Lowry scored seven points in overtime for Toronto, which squandered a 17-point, second-half lead Friday night before outlasting the Nets.

With a win before a sellout crowd at the Verizon Center, Washington (31-17) could have pulled into a tie with Toronto (33-15) for second place in the Eastern Conference.

Cavaliers 106, Timberwolves 90

In Minneapolis, LeBron James scored 16 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter to win a stirring duel with rookie Andrew Wiggins, leading Cleveland over the Timberwolves in Kevin Love's first game back in Minnesota since he was traded.

James kicked things into gear in the final 9 minutes. He scored 13 straight points for the Cavaliers, who have won 10 straight.

Wiggins had 33 points and four steals for the Timberwolves (8-39), who gave Love and the Cavs all they could handle in front of a standing-room-only crowd.

Love was booed heavily and finished with 14 points on 6-for-14 shooting and 17 rebounds.

Thaddeus Young scored 19 points for the Timberwolves, but they were 3 for 19 in the fourth quarter.

Clippers 105, Spurs 85

In San Antonio, Blake Griffin had 31 points and 13 rebounds, and Los Angeles rolled to a victory that snapped San Antonio's six-game home winning streak.

Chris Paul had 20 points and Spencer Hawes scored 11. DeAndre Jordan added eight points and 19 rebounds while limiting All-Star reserve Tim Duncan to four points, which matched his season low.

San Antonio went 10 for 30 on 3-pointers and was outrebounded 56-36.

Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points for the Spurs and Danny Green added 16, including five 3-pointers.

San Antonio had won four straight over Los Angeles.

Grizzlies 85, Thunder 74

In Memphis, Tenn., Zach Randolph had 21 points and 18 rebounds, and Marc Gasol added 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead Memphis past Oklahoma City.

Mike Conley, returning after missing two games with a sprained left wrist, added 10 points as the Grizzlies won their sixth straight. Ten of Randolph's rebounds came on the offensive glass.

Kevin Durant, a game-time decision after missing the previous two games with a sprained big toe, led the Thunder with 15 points. Russell Westbrook finished with 14 points, and Serge Ibaka added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Warriors 106, Suns 87

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry had 25 points and seven assists, and Golden State snapped a two-game skid with a win over Phoenix.

Klay Thompson scored 22 points, and Harrison Barnes added 13 points and eight rebounds to help the Western Conference-leading Warriors (37-8) shake off a slow start. They fell behind by 12 in the second quarter, rallied ahead 52-51 at halftime and ran away from the Suns after the break.

Markieff Morris had 17 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix (28-21), which had won two in a row.

Golden State put together a 15-2 run midway through the fourth that put the game away.

Mavericks 108, Magic 93

In Orlando, Fla., Monta Ellis had 25 points and 13 assists as Dallas sent Orlando to its eighth straight loss.

Tyson Chandler finished with 20 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks, who held off a fourth-quarter Magic rally after leading by 27 early in the second half.

Six players scored in double figures for the Mavericks, who won their second straight.

Nik Vucevic, who did not play in the fourth quarter, had 17 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic.

Evan Fournier, starting in place of injured Victor Oladipo, and Willie Green had 15 points each for Orlando.

Kings 99, Pacers 94

In Indianapolis, Rudy Gay scored 31 points, Darren Collison had 23 and Sacramento snapped its eight-game skid by beating Indiana.

DeMarcus Cousins had his 28th double-double of the season with 20 points and 19 rebounds. The center fouled out with 1:46 to play and the Kings leading 93-85.

The struggling Kings (17-29) needed their early dominance to fend off the late-charging Pacers.

David West and C.J. Miles each scored 17 points for the Pacers (17-32).

Bucks 95, Trail Blazers 88

In Milwaukee, Jared Dudley scored 18 points and O.J. Mayo had 17 off the bench to help Milwaukee beat struggling Portland.

John Henson added 14 for the Bucks, who had won consecutive road games at Miami and Orlando. The Bucks had a pretty big week off the court, too, as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker announced a funding plan that could represent a major step toward building a new arena in Milwaukee.

Damian Lillard and Wesley Matthews scored 19 points apiece for Portland. LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Blazers, who have lost three straight and eight of 10.

Hornets 104, Nuggets 86

In Denver, Cody Zeller scored a career-best 21 points, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 17 and Charlotte routed reeling Denver.

Al Jefferson and Jason Maxiell added 14 points apiece for the Hornets, who have won 10 of 13. They have held their opponents under 100 points in 12 of those games. And their solid play has continued in the absence of Kemba Walker, who underwent surgery Wednesday to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee and will be out at least six weeks.

Danilo Gallinari's 15 points led the Nuggets, who were dealt a blow before the game. Star forward Kenneth Faried and Darrell Arthur, a key reserve, were both held out because of illness.

Laird takes a 3-shot lead in Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)— Martin Laird watched the ball disappear into the cup on the par-3 16th hole and put some elbow grease into his fist pump.

It certainly wasn't the most exciting moment on golf's most raucous hole. That belonged to Francesco Molinari, who made the first hole-in-one at the 16th on Saturday at the Phoenix Open since Tiger Woods in 1997.

But it was plenty important to Laird.

On the verge of dropping another shot and watching his lead dwindle, Laird followed that 10-foot par putt with a birdie on the 17th and another par save on the 18th to finish off a 3-under 68 and take a three-shot lead into the final round.

Next up is another round with a new pair from the next generation.

Laird, a 32-year-old Scot who has lived in Scottsdale since turning pro, played in the final group Saturday with two 21-year-old rookies, Justin Thomas and Daniel Berger. Chasing him Sunday will by Hideki Matsuyama, the 22-year-old from Japan who is No. 18 in the world, and 24-year-old power hitter Brooks Koepka.

"This might just be the way it is," Laird said of the increasingly evident youth movement. "When they come out, they're ready to go. They don't need three or four years to get used to the tour life or used to the golf courses. I don't think they get intimidated at all anymore."

Laird was at 13-under 200 as he goes for his fourth PGA Tour victory.

Matsuyama, already with seven wins worldwide, birdied his last four holes to surge into contention with a 63. Koepka finally managed to find the fairways, made birdie on both par 5s on the back nine and shot 64. They were at 203 with Zach Johnson, who shot a 67.

Laird at least has a cushion, which might not have been the case without those key par putts, especially on the 16th.

He pulled his tee shot into the water on the par-5 15th and made bogey, which can feel like losing two shots. And then he stepped into the arena at the 16th, hit wedge at the flag from 133 yards and pulled it enough to go in a bunker. He blasted out to about 10 feet, though the putt had plenty of break.

"That was a big one," he said. `You don't want to make two bogeys in a row at two holes you're looking at maybe making birdies on."

He followed with a perfect pitch to 3 feet for birdie on the 17th, and finished his round with a 10-foot par save.

Molinari's ace wasn't for show. It carried him to a 64, and at 8-under 205, he was among 15 players still within five shots of the lead.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of that group was Jon Rahm of Spain, a junior at Arizona State playing this week on a sponsor's exemption. He got the gallery on his side early, especially by wearing a Sun Devils jersey when he teed off on the 16th, and shot 66. Rahm was at 9-under 204, along with Ryan Palmer (68) and Thomas, who had four birdies over his last six holes to salvage a 69.

Five-run 7th lifts Brewers past Yankees

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The GSM Brewers used a five-run seventh inning to rally past the Saipan Stevedore Yankees, 9-6, in last Friday night's game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field.

It was the defending champs' second straight win in as many games to join the Falcons on top of the standings. The Yankees dropped to 1-1 for solo second followed by the 1-2 slates of IP&E Fielders and the North Starz. The Jets remain winless after two matches.

Vince Cepeda, who replaced Lancaster Secharmidal when Chris Camacho was about to bat in the top of the third, shut out the Yankees the rest of the way.

Secharmidal started out strong retiring the first three batters he faced in the top of the first and also had a quick inning in the second. He allowed two hits, including one run, in the top of the third—a pair of singles by Robert Bansil and Gary Cruz.

Secharmidal, after forcing Jack Sablan and Yankees designated hitter Chris Camacho to each fly out to left and center fields to end the second, lost control of the game and let the Yankees score five runs, including one earned.

He gave up an RBI single to Ben Jones scoring Carl Camacho, who led off for the Yankees with a single, then walked Jerome Delos Santos with still no outs. He got his first out when he forced Pete Tomokane to an infield fly that was easily caught by Byron Kaipat.

Secharmidal struck out Brian Camacho but walked Bansil. The Brewers' defense, with two outs, also faltered with Bansil and Cruz scoring consecutive runs on errors.

Another error by Brewers centerfielder Jun Rabauliman had Jack Sablan reaching first and the latter moved to third on a wild pitch.

Cepeda then came in and brought things back into order. He forced Chris Camacho to fly out to right fielder Tyron Omar to end the third and shutout the Yankees after that.

He was almost unhittable with Cruz the only one who was able to record a hit, single, in the top of the eighth. The Yankees catcher singled in the top of the eighth but got stranded after Cepeda retired the next two of the three batters he next faced.

The Brewers were trailing 6-4 when they made their move in the bottom of the seventh, with Roy Celis leading off with a walk and later crossed home plate on a Manny Sablan RBI double.

The Brewers scored four more times after that including on the Yankees' back-to-back errors and Cepeda stood atop the mound for the last time in the top of the ninth where he forced Jones, Delos Santos an Tomokane to infield and outfield flys.

Cepeda earned the win after pitching 6.8 shutout innings giving up one hit, two walks and had eight strikeouts. Rabauliman went 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI.

The Brewers aim to clinch a third straight win when they take on the winless Jets tonight at the Tan Ko ballfied.

SERENA

From Page 28

in the Open era and moved into outright second place on the list of major winners in the Open era, moving clear of Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova on 18.

No. 20 is her next objective, and her next chance is at the French Open.

"When I think about Paris, I don't think about 20. I just think about winning there," said Williams, who didn't reach a quarterfinal in a Grand Slam between her wins at the 2013 and 2014 U.S. Opens.

Still affected by a recent cold, Williams controlled the first set around a rain delay when play was stopped for 13 minutes during the sixth game for the roof on Rod Laver Arena to be closed. Williams came back on court momentarily, but returned to the locker room.

"I had a really bad cough, I ended up throwing up," Williams said. "I think in a way that just helped me—I felt better after that."

She returned to court and fired an ace to start a run of six straight points to take the set away from Sharapova.

Williams won the first six points of the second set, too, before Sharapova started hitting out.

The five-time major winner had 18 of her 21 winners in the second set, and fended off four break points.

No. 2-ranked Sharapova saved two match points, including one in the 10th game when she hit a forehand winner down the line, and she calmly held serve twice to stay in the match. In the end, though, it wasn't enough to end a decade-long losing streak to Williams.

"I haven't beaten her in a long time but I love every time I step on the court with her," said Sharapova, who trails 17-2 in career head-to-heads against Williams and hasn't beaten the American since 2004. "I've had some of the best memories of my career on this court and also some of my toughest losses, but that's the life of a tennis player."

On the men's side, Fabio Fognini and Simone Bolelli became the first all-Italian team to capture a Grand Slam men's doubles title in more than 50 years after beating French pair Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-4, 6-4.

Novak Djokovic has won all four times he's reached the Australian Open final and is aiming to maintain his 100 percent record when he takes on Andy Murray in Sunday's singles final.

All set for business caging opening

The 2015 Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League is set to open tomorrow at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with nine teams vying for the inaugural season title.

Assembly time is set at 5:30pm for the parade of teams and short opening ceremony where some important guests are expected to show up.

A final meeting was held last Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Ada Gym conference room where the nine teams that attended submitted their final rosters and the league's ground rules were also discussed.

Asia Pacific Hotels Inc./Tan Holdings, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Marpac/Budweiser, Mobil, Pacific Islands Club-Saipan, Public School System, Saipan Ice, and Saipan Stevedore are the competing teams.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is reportedly trying to join the league.

Only employees of the said businesses are allowed to participate and teams can submit a 15-player roster with 12 allowed to suit up for every game.

The human resource managers of each business establishment need to certify that players listed on their respective rosters are employees of the company they are representing.

Tournament format will follow a single round-robin elimination and a double-round eliminations in the playoffs. Two games, at 6:30pm and 8pm, will be played every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Ada Gym.

All teams are required to have their respective complete set of uniforms. ***(Jon Perez)***

ARMATECH

From Page 28

ipio saved the day for Armatech in the ensuing play.

Abrams, who spent majority of third period and half of the fourth on the bench due to foul trouble, allowing IT&E to stay in the game, received a pass from Pagarao inside the right shaded lane. She turned and tried to squeeze her way closer to the basket, but three IT&E defenders ganged up on her. Despite the tight situation she was into, Abrams kept her composure and spotted Alipio cutting baseline. With Abrams drawing three defenders, Alipio was left free for the layup that gave Armatech more breathing room, 42-39, 55.6 seconds remaining on the clock.

IT&E sued for time to talk things over, but failed to produce on two occasions with Jan Travilla missing her nth attempt from downtown and Kyla Ito going 0-for-2 from the stripe after her team got an offensive rebound and she was fouled on her way to the basket.

After Ito's second miss, Pagarao managed to push the ball to their frontcourt and found Yiu running to the left wing for a fastbreak layup. Yiu, who came in for the fouled out Jeralyn Castillo in the last two minutes missed, hit the insurance free throws, banking her first attempt and the second hitting nothing but the bottom of the net.

Now down by 5 points, 44-39, with 21.4 seconds left on the clock, IT&E was pressured to go for 3-point shots. Travilla missed anew, along with Sablan, while Lily Williams drained IT&E's third attempt from downtown at the buzzer to peg the final score.

Pagarao top-scored in Armatech's title win, firing 21 points, while Abrams still finished in twin digits with her 10 despite being saddled by fouls.

With Abrams sitting on the bench for most parts of the third canto and Armatech committing so many turnovers, IT&E managed to fight back, turning a 20-29 halftime deficit to a 30-29 lead. Ito and Sablan nailed one triple apiece, while Travilla and Madeleine Alegre scored 2 points apiece in the 10-0 run in the first three and a half minutes of the third period.

However, that was the last time IT&E had the lead, as it was held to only two free throws in the remaining minutes of that third canto, while Armatech saved two field goals to regain the upper hand, 33-32.

Armatech then stretched the lead to 6, 40-34, with Pagarao drilling the team's first 7 points in the fourth, while IT&E was still without a field goal for about 10 minutes bridging the third and fourth and was limited to two charities from Travilla. The score remained unchanged for more than two minutes before Ito converted a layup and Sablan split her charities, moving IT&E within 3, 37-40, 4:26 left on the clock.

Again, there was a lull in scoring in the next three minutes of the final canto before Sablan made a crucial steal and basket. Sablan stayed close to Pagarao near midcourt and the latter lost her dribble and tried to protect the ball using her body. However, Sablan reached in and managed to tap the ball, picking it up and sprinting for a fastbreak layup.

Sablan's big defensive stop and basket, however, was countered by Alipio's baseline shot and IT&E failed to retaliate as they muffed one triple after another in the ensuing plays, allowing Armatech to escape with the title win.

Meanwhile, results of the boys U19 finale between the Sonics and Rollers 1 will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday issue.

Armatech 44–Pagarao 21, Abrams 10, Alipio 7, Yiu 4, Castillo 2.

IT&E 42– Williams 10, Travilla 10, Sablan 9, Ito 7, Reyes 2, Villagomez 2, Alegre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 29-20, 33-32, 42-40.

AUSTRALIA

From Page 28

just before halftime had put Australia ahead before South Korea's standout player Son Hyeung-min equalized deep into second-half injury time to deny the hosts victory in regulation time.

"It's a proud moment for our country," said Australia coach Ange Postecoglou. "To be champions you got to display a whole range of qualities and today was about courage, belief and conviction. The players had that in abundance."

"We got tested. We copped one in the last minute. It would have broken a lot of teams."

South Korea, which had not conceded a goal until the final, has now lost its past four finals and has not won the tournament since 1960.

"We don't have the cup but the way we played today we are also champions of a lot of hearts," said South Korea coach Uli Stielike. "I think the best result from such a match would have been a draw and we take the cup for two years each, but I know it can't be like this and we have to accept that."

Australia's rampant attack had notched a tournament-leading 12 goals in five games coming into the final but was largely muted in the first half as South Korea quickly settled and frequently found its way into the final attacking third.

However, Australia inflicted the first blow with Luongo's stunning strike within seconds of halftime. It was the 22-year-old Swindon Town midfielder's second goal of the Asian Cup, to go with four assists. He was named player of the tournament after the final.

South Korea's Son was the standout player on the field and, despite missing difficult chances earlier in the match, made no mistake in the final minute when he blasted past Mat Ryan to send the match to extra time.

Australia looked fresher in the extra period and the match turned again on an exceptional piece of individual skill in the 105th minute.

Juric, who came on for Tim Cahill in the 63rd, back-heeled the ball between Kin Jin-su's legs on the goal line and sent in a low cross which the goalkeeper could only block into the path of Troisi, who put the ball into the empty net to erase Australia's disappointment of losing the final four years ago to Japan in Qatar.

"We knew that we would be strong in extra time," said Postecoglou. "We knew we probably had them on fitness."

Earlier in the game, Australia struggled to handle the pace of the South Korean wide players with both Ivan Franjic and Jason Davidson especially caught out in the early stages, with Son looking particularly threatening as he cut in from the flanks.

Australia captain Mile Jedinak produced his team's first shot but his free kick from a central position just cleared the crossbar with Kim beaten in the 8th.

Son, who scored both goals in South Korea's 2-0 extra-time win over Uzbekistan, almost opened the scoring with an exquisite volley in the 36th, which rocketed just over the angle of the post and crossbar with Ryan on the ground.

After being under concerted pressure for most of the first half, Australia seized the momentum with a moment of individual brilliance by Luongo.

In the final minute of the half, Luongo received Trent Sainsbury's forward pass, turned sharply and unleashed a powerful low shot from 25 yards (meters) that beat Kim and passed just inside the left post to spark wild celebrations among the 76,385 crowd.

"I definitely enjoyed that one," Luongo said.

South Korea started the second half better with Son again looking dangerous.

Just past the hour Postecoglu withdrew Cahill, who suffered an ankle injury in the first half, for Juric. Cahill received a standing ovation as Australia's greatest ever goalscorer — with 39 goals from 82 games — left the field in what may be his final appearance for the national team.

Australia suffered further injury blows less than 10 minutes later with Robbie Kruse stretchered off the field with what appeared a serious leg injury for the Bayer Leverkusen winger.

Franjic then departed through injury to leave Australia without substitutes for the final 20 minutes.

With the final moments ebbing away, South Korea launched a long ball toward Australia's penalty box which eventually fell to Son who held off Sainsbury to fire a shot past Ryan to force extra time.

Juric then helped set up Troisi to finally settle it for the hosts.

Swimmers get 42 PBTs in 4 events

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A participant in the 2014-2015 SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet races in the 50m freestyle event of last month's competition at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Forty-two more personal best times were registered in the breaststroke and freestyle races in last week's 2014-2015 SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Of the 42 PBTs in the event's next two events, 20 were logged in the 50m breaststroke—the fifth event of the weekend meet held last Jan. 24.

The six swimmers entered in the girls 9 to 10 division led the list of PBT getters in the 50m breaststroke event with Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe tallying the fastest time at 46.65 seconds and breaking her 49.27. Coume Kaga came in at second with her 50.86 seconds and also shattered her previous PBT (54 seconds), while the four remaining swimmers in the division also earned PBTs with Tsunami Saipan's Ayumi Oligacion recording 57.47 seconds, teammate Natsuki Nagata posting 57.83 seconds and SSC's Jinie Thompson tallying 1:02.22 and Ayaka Sato timing in at 1:09.23.

In the girls U18 division, Tsunami Saipan's Kana Suzuki (1:03.61) and Shaunalyn Babauta (1:04.33) got PBTs, while two more Tsunami Saipan bets, Sophia Gauran and Aika Watanave, had the same feat after clocking in at 44:33 seconds and 49.90 seconds, respectively, in 11 to 12 age group.

In the boys division, Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu (51.92 seconds) and SSC's Dino Sato (1:06.67) were the PBT getters in the U8 division, while Tsuanmi Saipan's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (49.15 seconds), Juhn Tenorio (52.80 seconds), and Tomie Kenta (57.56 seconds) and SSC's Jinnozuke Suzuki (52.66 seconds) and Taiyo Akimaru (56.11 seconds) did it in the 9 to 10 race.

In the boys 11 to 12 division, three earned PBTs: SSC's Taiga Sato (46.66 seconds) and Tsunami Saipan's Jhota Yoshino (48.49 seconds) and Nelson Batallones (52.44 seconds).

In the 100m breaststroke event, which was for swimmers in the 13-and-above age group, five eclipsed their old PBTs. In the 13 to 14 division, Tsunami Saipan's Kyona Rivera and Katherine Illahi set new PBTs of 1:39.54 and 1:58.21, respectively, while Mark Maestro was the third swimmer from the club to get a PBT with his 1:36.30. SSC's David Boyer was in the same age group and had a PBT of 1:51.06, while Tsunami Saipan's Angel De Jesus raced in the 15 to 16 division and tallied a PBT of 1:37.79.

Boyer and Maestro marked PBTs, too, in the 100m freestyle after clocking in at 1:09.57 and 1:09.04, respectively, while the former's teammates Christian Villacrusis (1:03.61) and Kento Akimaru (1:03.83) also hit PBTs.

The remaining 11 PBTs in the next four events of the Jan. 24 meet was logged in the 50m freestyle race.

Four were registered in the boys 11 to 12 with Sato marking 33.66 seconds and fellow SSC swimmers Rinto Takahashi and R.J. Pierce timing in at 34.37 seconds and 38.01 seconds, respectively. Yoshino completed the list with his 41.28 seconds.

Xu (37.27 seconds), Dino Sato (50.44 seconds), Jinnosuke Suzuki (35.28 seconds) and Kenta (48.25 second) were the four other PBT getters in the boys division. In the girls division, Nagata (45.17 seconds), Ayaka Sato (53.12), and Obligacion (56.30 second) also achieved PBTs.

Little League volunteers prep up field for opening

JON PEREZ
Kagman Little Legals player Garreth Weaver does his share in painting the dugout at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan ballfield. The 9-year-old, who is excited to play this season, is one of the volunteers who helped in preparing the field on Saturday.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. volunteers joined the Northern Marianas Sports Association as the two groups worked tirelessly last Saturday morning to prepare the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan ballfield in time for next week's opening of the 2015 season.

Officers, coaches, kids, parents, and other volunteers were seen either painting the dugouts and bleachers, or putting up the net at the back fence.

The 2015 season officially opens on Thursday, Feb. 5, where all teams—Little League, Junior, Senior, and Big—will line up at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field. The ceremony begins at 5pm followed by a Big League game at 6pm.

SLLBI president Ben Jones and chief statistician A.J. Murig helped NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi and another volunteer in putting up the net at the outfield.

The Kagman Little Legals coaching staff and some of its players, parents and other volunteers put a fresh coat of paint at the dugouts and bleachers a new shade of green.

Atty. Robert T. Torres, who is also the sponsor of the Kagman Little Legals, donated the paint, brushes, and rollers.

Tony Magofna, one of the volunteers, said taking the time to help out is his way of giving back to the community.

"Anything for the kids. I used to play softball and my kids and grandkids watched me every time I play. Now, it is time for me to cheer and show my support to them," said Magofna.

He, however, was saddened after seeing that some people wrote grafitti on walls of the dugouts, before they painted it.

"It is sad to see some of our public places get vandalized. People should learn how to take care of these facilities."

SLLBI vice president Annie Flores, secretary and player agent Piding Tenorio, and several other volunteers accepted all the rosters and required documents of each team.

Malcolm Omar (treasurer) and Climaco Laniyo (safety officer) are the other SLLBI officials.

More than 20 teams joined the Little, Junior, Senior and Big leagues with 12 competing in the Majors (9-12 age group) division.

The Little Falcons, Tanapag Braves, Comets 1, Kagman Kags Boys, IT&E Comets 2, Little Padres, Ol'Aces, Jets, Red Sox, Twins, and McDonald's are the other squads in the Majors Little League division.

Public urged to watch to NMI vs Japanese Soccer College

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is inviting everyone to watch the forthcoming matches between visiting Japanese teams and NMI players.

The first Japanese team to arrive will be Japan Soccer College, which will be playing two matches on Feb. 3 and 5. Tomorrow, the Japan Soccer College Team will play against the CNMI U18 Boys National Team, while on Thursday the visitors will challenge the NMI All-Star Team. Kick-off on both days will be at 5:30 pm.

The JSC team will be giving away some soccer uniforms during their visit. Lucky spectators this coming Tuesday can win those uniforms through a raffle drawing.

Come to the match on Tuesday and look for NMIFA volunteers distributing the tickets. Write your name, phone number, and email address on the designated part of the ticket and then put that part into a drop box that will be placed in front of the grandstand. The winning tickets will be drawn during half time and the ticket numbers and name of the winners will be published in the newspapers either on Wednesday or Thursday. You can also check the winners via Facebook account "Football in the CNMI."

Winners can then claim the shirts after the JSC vs NMI All-Star Team match Feb. 5. Look for NMIFA officials at the front of the grandstand so the winners can also have a group photo with JSC players.

Two more Japanese squads will visit the island and play against the Commonwealth squads. ***(NMIFA)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Team's Ruselle Zapanta and a Japan Soccer College player fall on the ground as they battle for possession during an exhibition game last year at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Rodgers wins MVP, Watt unanimous top AP defensive player

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Serena beats Sharapova again, wins 19th Grand Slam

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams stuck out a fist in mock triumph and mouthed "C'mon," careful not to push her point too far.

The 33-year-old Williams was closing in on her 19th Grand Slam singles title, her 16th straight win over Maria Sharapova and her sixth Australian Open championship when she was docked a point by the chair umpire for hindrance—for yelling in celebration too early when she thought she'd hit a service winner.

She didn't let that, or another early celebration on match point, or a hacking cough that made her sick, become distractions. Instead, Williams maintained her composure to beat Sharapova 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Saturday night to continue her 100 percent record in finals at Melbourne Park and move closer to Steffi Graf's record of 22 major titles in the Open era.

"I got too excited and I hit a great serve ... I didn't expect her to get it back," Williams explained of the hindrance call in the seventh game of the second set. "I said, `C'mon', a little too soon. I guess there's a rule that you can't do it. So I'm fine with it. I moved on very fast to the next point; just tried to stay as focused as I could."

The muted fist pump, she said, was just for fun.

"I'm like, `C'mon.' It just goes to show you I have more fun on the court. I would have never done that three years ago, four years ago," said Williams, who has let similar calls upset her in the past. "So I just kind of made a little sarcasm after that."

On her third match point, she let her racket go before hearing a let call to what she thought was an ace.

"I thought, `Wow this is it, I did it,' only to hear let. I was like, `OK Serena!'" she said.

So she fell back on her biggest weapon, firing another ace—her 15th of the set and 18th of the match. This time, after checking it was official, she bounced around like a little child and the celebration was real.

"I'm so honored to be here and to hold this 19th trophy," Williams said. "I didn't think it would happen this fast, to be honest, but it feels really good."

Williams, at 33 years and 127 days, became the oldest winner of the Australian women's title

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AP
Serena Williams of the U.S. celebrates after defeating Maria Sharapova of Russia in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015.

Australia beats South Korea 2-1 to win Asian Cup final

KEIRAN SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia won its first Asian Cup title by beating South Korea 2-1 after extra time Saturday in the final at Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

Substitute James Troisi tapped home the winner after Kim Jin-hyeon could only parry striker Tomi Juric's low cross just before the midway point of extra time to give Australia its maiden continental title after it joined the Asian confederation in 2006.

Earlier, a superb long-range strike by Massimo Luongo

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AP
Australia's Tim Cahill celebrates with the trophy after winning the AFC Asian Cup final soccer match between South Korea and Australia in Sydney, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015.

Armatech clinches women's tiara

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech showed poise in the homestretch to eke out a 44-42 win over IT&E and bag the women's division championship in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rachel Abrams and Chevy Kate Alipio teamed up in a crucial play in the closing seconds, while Ka Wai Yiu canned a pair of free throws to hand Armatech the division crown and finish the tournament unbeaten in 12 games.

Clinging to a 40-39 advantage, with still 1:05 left in the game after IT&E's Che Sablan picked Irish Pagarao's pocket near midcourt and went all the way for a fastbreak layup, Abrams and Al-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Irish Pagarao is in heavy traffic with three IT&E defenders ganging up on her during the third quarter of their title match in the women's division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.